

Ultrasound breast coil insertion



Radiology Department

This leaflet provides you with information about our breast ultrasound service. It explains what is involved and who you will meet.

The Radiology Department

Radiology is also known as the X-Ray or Imaging Department.

Who will I meet?

Receptionist/Clerical Staff: to help you make or change your imaging appointment and ensure your details are correct when you arrive for your appointment.

Radiographer: a female radiographer or HCA (Health Care Assistant) will assist the radiologist.

Radiologist/Breast Clinician: a specialist doctor trained to put a coil (very small marker) into your breast. They will also interpret images and report them for your consultant.

What is a Coil Insertion?

A coil is a very small marker that can be placed in your breast tissue. The coil can be seen only on ultrasound or x-ray images of your breast. You will not be able to feel it. It marks an area of your breast that may be difficult to find again without the coil.

Are there any risks in having an ultrasound coil insertion?

There are some slight risks associated with a coil insertion.

They include bruising and/or bleeding and soreness at the insertion site.

There is also a chance the coil will not be in the correct place and the insertion may have to be repeated.

Very rarely, an infection may occur at the insertion site.

If you have any queries about the need for this test please contact your referring doctor.

What preparation is required?

- No special preparation is required.
- If you take blood thinning medication such as Warfarin, aspirin or Clopidogrel, please tell us before taking up your appointment. In addition, if you are having regular blood tests to check your INR (International Normalised Ratio), please bring your results card with you to your appointment.
- Please note we have no provision for child care.

Is there an alternative?

No.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes, but for safety reasons they cannot accompany you into the room, except in very special circumstances.

What happens when I arrive?

- Please report to the Radiology reception desk.
- You will be asked to have a seat in our waiting area before being called into the ultrasound/mammography room.

What does the ultrasound coil insertion entail?

Once you are in the privacy of the ultrasound/ mammogram room, the radiologist will explain the procedure to you and obtain your written consent before starting the examination.

You will be asked to undress to the waist and lie on the examination couch. You may be asked to lie with your arm resting above your head. This allows the radiologist to see and scan the breast when placing the coil in the correct area.

The radiologist will clean the skin over the area where the coil is to be placed and inject local anaesthetic into it. This will help make the placing of the coil more comfortable.

Once the anaesthetic has worked, a small cut is made in the skin through which the doctor will place the coil. The coil is then inserted into the area of concern. Your breast will then be cleaned and a dressing/plaster applied.

We usually take 2 x-ray images of your breast to check the coil is in the correct place.

Will the breast coil insertion hurt?

Local anaesthetic injections will involve a small needle stab and stinging while it takes effect.

How long will the procedure take?

Most coil insertions take about 30 minutes.

Are there any side effects?

Sometimes there is localised bruising.

You may wish to take your usual pain relief as the local anaesthetic wears off. We recommend that you don't do any vigorous exercise immediately after the coil insertion or go swimming until the dressing is removed.

We will explain and give you a written information sheet on your post insertion care.

When will I get the results?

The radiologist will tell you immediately if the coil is in the correct place.

Privacy and dignity

We will try to make your visit to our department as comfortable as we can. You will see only female staff in the mammogram/ultrasound room.

Patient survey

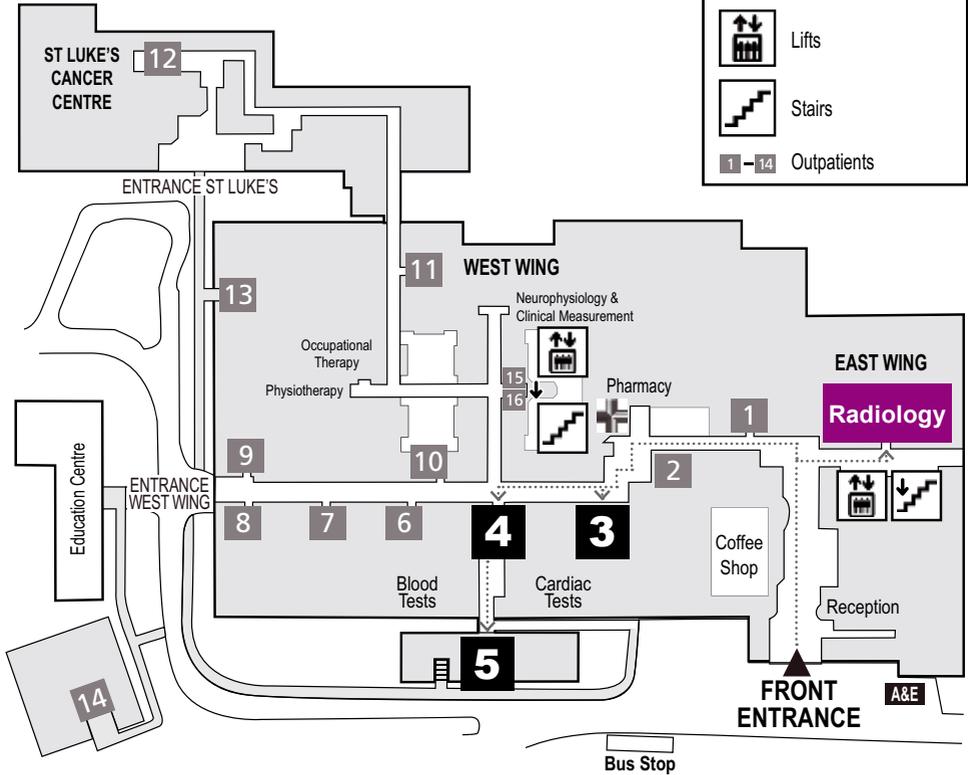
We value your opinion about the service we provide. Please help us to improve the service by answering the voluntary questionnaire included with your appointment letter.

How to find the Radiology Department

Royal Surrey County Hospital map
Level B (Ground floor)

KEY

-  1 To clinics on next floor (above or below)
-  Lifts
-  Stairs
-  1-14 Outpatients



Contact details

If you have any questions or would like to know more about mammography, please contact the Radiology Department on:

Telephone: 01483 571122 **ext** 2050 or

Direct line: 01483 464150, 9am–5pm

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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