

# How to book an appointment

MIC offers breast MRI on our 3T MRI scanner at our Century Park location.



## MRI Booking

Ph: 780.433.1120

Fax: 780.433.7286

1.888.880.1121

When you call, please have available:

- Your Alberta Health Care Insurance card.
- Your requisition form with your healthcare practitioner's instructions.

We will go over everything you need to know to prepare for your MRI.

**Note: MIC accepts all diagnostic imaging requisitions.**



mic.ca



## Breast MRI for your silicone gel breast implants



## Caring for your silicone gel breast implants

Breast augmentation is the most frequently performed cosmetic procedure in North America. Significant improvements have been made to silicone gel implants in recent years, but they are not lifetime devices.

There is no way to predict exactly how long your implants will last, so it is important that you have them checked regularly. This should become part of your overall health and wellness routine, along with regular breast exams and breast cancer screening.

The most effective way to do this is through breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to check that your silicone gel implants are intact.

## What is the difference in screening saline versus silicone gel breast implants?

- Ruptures in saline implants are very simple to detect as the saline leaks out and is absorbed by the body. The implant naturally deflates and you will notice a change in the size or shape of your breast. MRI is not necessary to assess saline implant integrity.
- Ruptures in silicone gel implants are more difficult to detect. They can be silent or the symptoms can be vague. A ruptured silicone gel implant may cause changes to your breast such as:
  - Differences in the shape or position of the implant
  - Swelling
  - Hardening
  - A new lump

If you notice any of these symptoms, you should follow up with your healthcare team.



## What is a silent rupture of silicone gel breast implants?

Silicone gel implants do not leak in the same way as saline implants. Silicone is thick and does not move as freely as saline.

You may not be aware that your implant has ruptured since a leaking silicone gel implant does not collapse. This is known as a silent rupture and when it occurs, some of the silicone gel that leaks out of your implant can become trapped in the surrounding tissue. The implant may need to be removed or replaced.

The best way for your healthcare practitioner to detect whether a silent rupture has occurred is through a breast MRI.

## How likely is it that my implants will rupture?

The longer you have implants, the higher the likelihood that they will rupture. The risk of silent rupture is quite small in the first three years, but it increases to 15 percent by the 10th year.

## Why is MRI the best imaging tool for silicone gel breast implants?



Breast MRI is the gold standard to evaluate silicone gel implants. MRI provides our specially trained radiologists with exceptional images so they can see whether there are problems with the implant.

### How often should I have an MRI to check on my implants?

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends MRI screening for silent rupture three years after you receive your implants, and then every two years after that. The manufacturer of your implants will also have recommendations concerning screening.

You should discuss MRI screening with your plastic surgeon to help determine what will work best for you.



## How is a breast MRI performed?

MRI is a non-invasive form of medical imaging that uses a powerful magnetic field, pulses of radio wave energy and a computer to produce very detailed pictures of the breast. There is no ionizing radiation with an MRI exam.

Your breast MRI will be booked on MIC's most advanced scanner, the Siemens Vida 3T which produces the highest quality images. During your exam, you will lie face down on a platform that has openings to accommodate your breasts so they can be imaged without being compressed.

Intravenous contrast is not necessary if you are having an MRI to evaluate implant integrity, but it is required if you have an MRI to check for diseases in the surrounding breast tissue.

You should discuss the type of breast MRI exam you need with your referring healthcare practitioner.

### What are other uses for breast MRI?

The detailed images produced by a breast MRI are often requested by healthcare practitioners:

- As part of the annual screening for women at high risk of developing breast cancer.
- To determine the stage of breast cancer following a diagnosis.
- To assess the effectiveness of breast cancer treatment.

## Is there a cost?

Breast MRI in community clinics is not insured by Alberta Health Care. When you call to book your appointment, we will go over the cost with you.

## MIC Medical Imaging

MIC is an expert and trusted partner to primary care practitioners and specialists.

Our radiologists play an essential role in the Edmonton area, providing diagnostic imaging at the University, Mazankowski, Stollery, Royal Alexandra, Grey Nuns, Sturgeon, Strathcona, Ft. Saskatchewan, Leduc and Devon hospitals, the Northeast and East Edmonton community health centres and the Kaye Edmonton clinic.

We are proud to be able to offer the same expert diagnostic imaging services at our 12 MIC community-based clinics in Edmonton, St. Albert, Ft. Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park. For a complete list of the services offered at each location, visit [mic.ca/locations](https://mic.ca/locations).



We look forward to welcoming you to one of our clinics and taking care of your medical imaging needs.