

Patient information

Incomplete Mammogram (PARTIAL)

Information for symptomatic women who have had an incomplete mammogram (PARTIAL) or were unable to have a mammogram

Incomplete Mammogram (PARTIAL)

Having a mammogram usually involves having two x-rays (mammograms) taken of each breast. Sometimes it is not always possible to take all the mammograms that we need and we may take all four pictures but the whole of the breast may not be shown.

There are different reasons as to why we may not have been able to show the whole breast on the mammogram such as:

- **You have limited movement:** We may not have been able to help you get into the best position that we required to undertake your mammogram. Please be assured that the mammographer would have made every effort to ensure they covered as much breast tissue as they were able.
- **You may have asked for us to stop:** If we have 1, 2 or 3 mammograms and you have asked us to stop at any point we would call this an incomplete or partial mammogram. If you would like the examination to be completed at another time, please ask the mammographer.
- **Treatment for breast cancer:** Occasionally, treatment for breast cancer (surgery or radiotherapy) can make it more difficult to place the breast tissue in the ideal position for a mammogram. Please be assured that the mammographer would have made every effort to ensure they covered as much breast tissue as they were able.

- **Pacemakers:** These sometimes obscure breast tissue and therefore we are unable to see the whole of the breast tissue. The mammographer will advise you if this is the case.

Unable to have a mammogram

Sometimes we are unable to position you to get enough of the breast to take a good mammogram. In this case we cannot justify the x-ray exposure.

or

You may have decided that you do not wish to have a mammogram for personal reasons.



If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the disabledgo website link below:

<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>