

## How Do You Explain Skin Markers to Your Patients?

As a Mammography Technologist you care for your patients. One goal is to help them get through their exam with the least amount of anxiousness and make it a positive experience.

A simple way to help achieve this is by explaining why a skin marker is used during their exam.

**In a recent patient survey,<sup>1</sup> patients were asked about their awareness of skin markers; here is what was discovered:**

- 44% of patients said they had a skin marker used during their mammogram
- 29% did not know skin markers provide important information to the radiologist

**When it comes to skin markers and patient satisfaction, here is what they shared:**

- 41% felt they were getting the best care
- 47% were more confident about getting their mammogram
- 22% felt cared for

The more the patient understands what is happening during their exam, they may feel more empowered and relaxed. Briefly explaining that skin markers are a valuable tool for the radiologist to quickly identify areas on the breast shows that you care, and gives the patient the confidence they are getting the best exam.

This interaction of explaining why a skin marker is used can potentially increase patient satisfaction.

**Here are a few examples of how to communicate skin markers to your patient:**

*"I will be placing this marker on your nipple to ensure we get the best positioning possible."*



*"We use a marker just for moles. I will place it around your mole so that the radiologist knows it is a mole if it shows up on the mammogram image."*



*"We use this marker just for scars, which help identify this area of your prior surgery to the radiologist."*



*"I am going to place this marker on the area where you (or the doctor) felt something. This lets the radiologist know that you have an area of concern."*




*"This marker is used to indicate the area of pain you are feeling. This lets the radiologist know exactly where you are experiencing pain."*



**To read the full white paper "Skin Marking in Mammography: Patients Speak Out" contact your Account Manager or email [info@beekley.com](mailto:info@beekley.com).**

<sup>1</sup>Blind, random, anonymous online survey conducted March 29, 2021, via Survey Monkey®. Incomplete and invalid responses excluded from results.

 Manufactured by Beekley Corporation  
One Prestige Lane, Bristol, CT 06010-7454 USA  
Tel: 1.800.233.5539 or +1.860.583.4700  
Fax: 1.800.735.1234 [beekley.com](http://beekley.com)

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