

September 2011

NEW 3D Breast Imaging at Advanced Medical Imaging

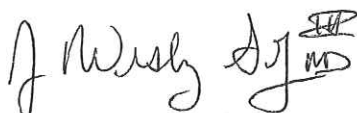
New 3D technology has recently been incorporated into our extensive repertoire of diagnostic tools for diagnosing breast cancer at our Women's Diagnostic Center in Silverdale. **Shear-Wave 3D Elastography Breast Ultrasound** performed during breast ultrasound is excellent when evaluating breast lesions and selecting patients who need a biopsy. This exam takes just two minutes, there is no radiation and it yields additional information about these breast lesions. It measures the tissue stiffness or the resistance of the underlying tissue to compression. Cancer generally has greater stiffness on elastography; it is not very compressible. It looks different on elastography than benign breast tissue, which is very compressible.

A real benefit of this technology is that it can help differentiate benign from malignant lesions. A lesion is measured on 2D ultrasound and again measured with elastography, and then compared. This technology is designed to reduce the number of patients undergoing unnecessary biopsies. Borderline lesions that would have been biopsied can be shown to have low tissue stiffness. This would indicate benign tissue that does not require biopsy.

In October, we will be offering **3D Mammography** also known as **Tomosynthesis**, which will be incorporated into our diagnostic tools for diagnosing breast cancer. This technology offers exceptionally sharp breast images and gives radiologists the ability to identify and characterize individual breast structures without the confusion of overlapping tissue. Multiple low-dose images of the breast are acquired at different angles. These images are then used to produce a series of one-millimeter thick slices that can be viewed as a 3D reconstruction of the breast. This technology has many advantages - improved cancer detection especially in women with dense breast tissue, improved lesion characterization and potentially reduced recalls and fewer biopsies. There is a small increase in radiation inherent in the 3D technology, so the radiologist will protocol which patients may benefit from this test.

Our Women's Diagnostic Center in Silverdale is looking forward to offering this new technology to your patients. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 360-337-6500.

Regards,



J. Wesley Solze, MD

Medical Director

Women's Diagnostic Center