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NEW WEAPON IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER
NOW AVAILABLE AT AMMC

Less Invasive, State-of-the-Art Procedure Aids in Early Detection

PARAGOULD, AR – Pinpointing breast cancer is now quicker and easier thanks to a simple, relatively painless, 20-minute procedure now available at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center. AMMC offers the latest technological advance in the fight against breast cancer with stereotactic breast biopsies, which are now available.

“Early detection is crucial in the fight against cancer and this is no less true when it comes to breast cancer,” Dr. Robert Alleman, a surgeon at AMMC says. “A stereotactic breast biopsy offers patients a less invasive alternative to traditional biopsy techniques, requiring only a local anesthetic and a small incision, utilizing a special, x-ray-guided needle to accurately extract a tissue sample.”

A highly skilled mammographer specializing in image-guided breast biopsy procedures and registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists® aids physicians at AMMC with this new biopsy technique, according to Shelley Cornelison, AMMC’s radiology manager.

Dr Adel Hassan, also a surgeon at AMMC adds that another important advantage of stereotactic breast biopsy includes the use of a special tissue marker. “After the biopsy has been completed, a special tissue marker can be permanently placed at the biopsy site to locate the specific area if further surgical or mammographic follow-up is needed.”

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Following the procedure, Dr. Hassan notes that patients require no stitches. The biopsy site is bandaged and a tiny cold pack is applied to the area to relieve any swelling or bruising, and patients are free to resume normal activities. Patients may take a non-aspirin over-the-counter pain reliever like Tylenol should they experience any discomfort.

In most cases health insurance plans should cover at least part or all of this procedure. Patients interested in this new alternative to traditional biopsy procedures should have their physician refer them to Dr. Robert Alleman (870) 215-5411 or Dr. Adel Hassan (870) 239-5916 at AMMC. For additional information about stereotactic breast biopsy, please contact AMMC's Radiology Manager Shelley Cornelison at (870) 239-7820.

According to Susan G. Komen for the Cure[®] Arkansas, nearly 400,000 women in Arkansas have never had a mammogram. The national Centers for Disease Control (CDC), cites breast cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer, and the second leading cause of cancer-related death among women in the United States. While these statistics are quite sobering, early detection offers tremendous hope. In addition to self-exams, the CDC estimates that early detection through screening mammograms can reduce mortality from breast cancer by approximately 20-35 percent in women aged 50-69, and approximately 20 percent in women aged 40-49.

Organizations including the American Medical Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Cancer Society support mammography screening beginning at age 40. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, an independent private-sector panel of experts in prevention and primary care recommends that women over the age of 40 be screened for breast cancer with a mammogram every 1-2 years.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.arkansasmethodist.org.