

Breast Health Center Opening: Newest Technology Available



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Even before ground was broken for the aesthetically upscale Lakewood Ranch Medical Center (LWRMC) in November 2002, its organizers had been working with community members who helped them both identify the needs of area residents and formulate the services they are now providing. The entire culture of LWRMC reflects the hospital's mission in its commitment to excellence in serving patients.

wait while the technician develops the film and verifies that the image quality is sufficient for the clinician to read and interpret the results.

"With the newer digital approach, images are actually realized on the computer screen within seconds after they are taken. The technologist does not have to go to a separate area and develop the film. The images are almost immediately available, so the patient can leave in a shorter amount of time."

"A company named Suros has developed a biopsy solution that samples and excises tissue faster, with greater accuracy and substantially less trauma for patients than was previously possible," describes Linda. "It is a vacuum-assisted breast biopsy system that is very speedy in terms of tissue acquisition."

"Because there is a very high percentage of negative breast biopsies, it is relevant and significant that patients having biopsy specimens taken through stereotactic technology have the distinct advantage of not having to undergo general anesthesia in a surgical procedure. The stereotactic system enables patients to have a biopsy specimen taken through a needle. The specific placement of the needle is guided stereotactically so the needle can be guided exactly to the point or area of suspicion. With the Suros system, the total tissue acquisition time is typically less than 30 seconds."

The Suros stereotactic system is performed under local anesthesia. It is designed so that the clinician can deliver local anesthetic directly to the biopsy site without any interruption during the procedure, ensuring an effective pain management perspective.

"The equipment we are acquiring is made by a company called Hologic," observes Linda, "which specializes in serving the health-care needs of women. That was of interest to me because this is what they do. As we researched the equipment

options, we felt this was a company totally devoted to women's health and that they have designed their equipment and their systems in such a way as to best support their female patients' goals for good health and high quality of life."

Linda says the new Breast Health Center will be located adjacent to outpatient registration on the ground floor of the hospital close to the imaging department and will be under the direction of Mark Carter, director of imaging services for LWRMC.

The opening of the Breast Health Center is anticipated in early June 2007.

"At LWRMC we recognize the value and importance of women obtaining their screening mammograms at a frequency recommended by the National Cancer Institute because research and statistics have pointed to the advantages of early detection," emphasizes Linda. "The sooner a malignant abnormality can be identified and diagnosed, the better the chances are for successful treatment and long-term survival for our patients." **FHCN**—Kris Kline



Mark Carter
Director, Breast Health Center



Tracy Legutko
Mammography Technician

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center

is a spacious, full-service hospital comprising 186,000 square feet and 120 beds. It accommodates traditional as well as advanced, minimally invasive surgical services, and its staff is on duty around the clock, seven days a week. It is an important resource for the communities of greater eastern Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

It is therefore not surprising that as new technologies emerge in the field of breast health and as community needs expand, LWRMC prepares for the opening of its new Breast Health Center.

"By the time I came to LWRMC in June 2006, the hospital had begun investigating the purchase of a digital mammography system and a stereotactic breast biopsy system, neither of which had been available at the hospital," remembers Linda Widra, chief operating officer at LWRMC. "Although Lakewood Ranch Imaging Center was offering analog mammography, we were increasingly receiving calls from women inquiring as to whether we offered digital mammography. This indicated that the community was strongly supportive of our moving forward with this initiative."

Linda revisited the purchase, and as she began researching the project and its various components, the concept of showcasing these new services as a new breast health center began to jell.

"By September I had completed the research required for all the various pieces of this new service line," recalls Linda.

Digital mammography

"Digital mammography is the newest approach for obtaining mammographic images," observes Linda, "and there are actually several benefits to using it."

"In traditional analog mammography, after the technician obtains several views of the breast, the patient has to

According to the National Cancer Institute, digital mammography also uses less radiation than film mammography and may improve breast cancer detection for all or some groups of women.

"Another clear advantage of digital mammography over film mammography is that digital images can be magnified," notes Linda, "so if, for example, the radiologist is looking at a mammogram and sees an area that looks suspicious, he or she can enlarge or magnify that specific area to investigate whether or not it is something that warrants a diagnostic mammogram or other interventional procedure."

"Additionally, our new system will have computer-aided detection, or CAD, which uses algorithms that automatically identify and highlight characteristics on the mammographic image that are commonly associated with breast cancer. It flags areas that require additional scrutiny by the radiologist. It is almost like another pair of eyes looking at the image and is oriented toward increasing the accuracy of the interpretation that is made."

Digital images can also be transmitted electronically from one location to another for remote consultation with other breast specialists.

Stereotactic breast biopsy

Along with digital mammography, the LWRMC Breast Health Center will offer a stereotactic breast biopsy system.

Learn more

The staff at the Breast Health Center look forward to meeting the readers of Florida Health Care News. To learn more please call (941) 782-2264. Lakewood Ranch Medical Center is located at 8330 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. in Bradenton.

The Women's Center at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center provides health-care services for women in every stage of life. It offers individualized care before, during, and after childbirth and considers obstetrics to be one of their core services.

Women's Center

The center includes 12 labor, delivery, recovery, and postpartum (LDRP) suites, providing homelike surroundings for patients during labor and after childbirth. Its experienced medical team coordinates all aspects of obstetrics and gynecology, with

special attention to childbirth and breast care.

And in fulfilling its mission to serve the community, the Women's Center offers a full spectrum of family-focused education classes and seminars on women's health topics. It also provides health screenings for heart disease, stress, blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, lipids, and bone density.

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