

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

New Technology Elevates Breast Cancer Detection at Eisenhower

One of Only Four Hospitals in California to Offer Advanced Diagnostic Tool

For women facing even the slightest possibility of a breast cancer diagnosis, the answers can't come soon enough — especially for women whose mammograms are difficult to read. With GE Healthcare's SenoBright® Contrast Enhanced Spectral Mammography (CESM) technology, physicians at Eisenhower Schnitzer/Novack Breast Center now have the ability to reach definitive decisions sooner — reducing a patient's wait time from detection to diagnosis.



Thanks to a generous donation from BIGHORN Behind a Miracle (BAM), Eisenhower Schnitzer/Novack Breast Center purchased the most advanced, state-of-the-art dense breast imaging diagnostic tool available, and is only the second facility in California to offer this exciting new technology.

“This technique is approved for use in women who traditionally have troublesome mammograms,” says John Cutrone, MD, a Board Certified Radiologist specializing in breast imaging and Medical Director of the Eisenhower Schnitzer/Novak Breast Center. “In other words, we can use this for women with dense breasts or women in whom we find an abnormality that is indeterminate. By giving them a dye and reviewing a contrast-enhanced mammogram, we’ll be able to get more, and better, information and determine whether or not a biopsy is required.”

“CESM is a tremendous leap forward for us in breast imaging,” notes Dr. Cutrone. “One of the most difficult aspects of diagnostic medicine is finding a small cancer in a woman with dense breasts. The size of the cancer at the time it is detected is one of the most important determinants of how well a woman will do with treatment for breast cancer — our ability to find essentially small cancers that we might not otherwise have found is a very exciting prospect for us.”

Dr. Cutrone continues, “The ability to see how breast tissue reacts when a medication that seeks out areas of high blood flow is given, bridges the gap between traditional mammography — which is purely anatomic (shows what something looks like) — and MRI, which is a functional test (shows how much blood flow the abnormality has). We know that cancerous areas take up dye due to high blood flow differently than normal or benign conditions.”

Eisenhower Schnitzer/Novack Breast Centers are located across the Valley in La Quinta, Rancho Mirage and Palm Springs. During the past two years, each location has received brand new mammography equipment as well as state-of-the-art breast ultrasound equipment. CESM is available at the Rancho Mirage location in the Eisenhower Lucy Curci Cancer Center. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 760-773-4338.

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