



Health Care Forum

ASK THE MEDICAL EXPERTS

Mammography Access - A Tough Situation

Although the outlook for treatment of breast cancer patients has improved over the years, access continues to be a problem, especially in Western New York. When asked about this challenge, Windsong Radiology Group both expressed concern and highlighted areas that they have been able to enhance.

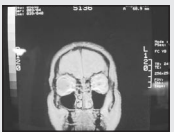
Lead by Janet Sung, M.D., Windsong Radiology Group has been the pioneer in many areas of imaging, but Dr. Sung has a particular affinity for women's imaging. "Nearly one in every eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. We make it a priority to ensure that early detection is available to everyone" reports Dr. Sung. "The problem is one of access...with mammography centers closing and other radiology facilities either excluding mammography as one of their services or limiting the number of mammography cases performed, it makes it more difficult."

Windsong continually examines ways to improve and has introduced several new technologies to the Western New York community. Dr. Sung herself pioneered several including the first digital mammography units, stereotactic breast biopsy, dedicated breast MRI, PET/CT breast imaging and computer aided detection (CAD). "CAD is a second pair of eyes for us," reports Dr. Sung. "It allows us to be more effective in our detection of smaller lesions and at

earlier and earlier stages." Windsong was also the first practice in the area to provide same day results for mammography, allowing patients to leave the facility with some peace of mind.

In terms of access alone, fewer radiologists are going into breast imaging due to the heavy regulation, high malpractice costs, and low reimbursement. As a result, wait times for routine appointments stretch out sometimes for months. "We make every effort to see all patients in a timely manner, but if a patient has a breast problem, we make it a point to see them within 24 hours," states Dr. Sung. "The anxiety patients experience with routine studies is high enough...patients calling with a specific problem need to be taken care of."

Although mammography alone is imperfect, Dr. Sung stresses that patients need to take charge of their healthcare. "While mammography is still the best choice for screening breast cancer at early and treatable stages, women still need to perform regular breast self exam, and see their physician yearly." The Windsong Radiology Group provides for FDA and MQSA certified mammography services at their three major imaging facilities in Williamsville, Depew and West Amherst. They were also the first facility in Western New York to receive full diagnostic accreditation from the American College of Radiology.



Imaging Experts

How far ahead should I book my annual mammography appointment?

For annual screening mammography, make it a lunch date with your friends annually! Book your appointment at any of our 3 main locations by calling Windsong Radiology Group 3-4 months before your annual lunch.

If you are experiencing an issue and need a diagnostic mammogram, call us and you'll be seen as soon as possible! We try to accommodate those experiencing problems within 24 hours.

What is CAD?

Computer Aided Detection is a second set of eyes that reviews every mammogram instantaneously. It allows our Radiologists to be more effective in the detection of smaller lesions and at earlier stages. Our Radiologists review both the CAD image and the regular mammography images simultaneously. The benefit for the patient is the piece of mind in accuracy and precision.

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