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Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging Detects Cancer Missed by Mammography

BSGI Increasingly Being Used in the Fight against Breast Cancer and New Studies Continue to Identify How It Impacts Patient Management

Newport News, VA., June 30, 2010 — In a study released this month in the Journal of Academic Radiology, researchers from George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., studied the impact of using Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI), a molecular breast imaging procedure, on patients who have known or highly suspected breast cancer detected by mammography.

Researchers discovered that BSGI detected additional cancers missed by the mammogram in 9% of those patients. Half of the cancers detected were smaller than 1cm, and some were as small as 1.5mm. Knowing about these additional cancers helps to improve treatment planning and is especially important when the additional cancer is in the breast opposite the one with the known cancer as was the case in 3% of the patients in this study.

“Breast biopsy or surgery demonstrated occult cancer in 35% of women who underwent biopsy because of findings on BSGI, which constituted 9% of all women in this study”, said Dr. Rachel Brem, Director of Breast Imaging and Intervention at George Washington University Medical Center and lead author of the paper.

“Considering the advantages of BSGI over MRI, including cost, ease of study for patients, time of interpretation for radiologists, and the ability to image all women, BSGI is an effective imaging modality in the identification of occult breast cancer.”

The BSGI examination is now available in over 150 centers in the U.S., Europe and Asia, and that number continues to increase as the imaging technique gains more acceptance by the medical community. The Society of Nuclear Medicine released procedural guidelines for BSGI to help new centers implement the technology within their breast cancer programs. BSGI is particularly useful due to the low cost for the examination, about one-third the cost of an MRI. In addition, patients with pacemakers or other metal implants, those with poor kidney function or claustrophobia can have difficulty in getting an MRI, but BSGI is not affected by these conditions.

About Dilon Diagnostics

Dilon Diagnostics, a brand of Dilon Technologies Inc., is bringing innovative medical imaging products to market. Dilon’s cornerstone product, the Dilon 6800, is a digital high-resolution, compact gamma camera optimized to perform BSGI, a molecular breast imaging procedure which images the metabolic activity of breast lesions through radiotracer uptake. Many leading medical centers around the country are now offering BSGI to their patients, including: Cornell University Medical Center, New York; George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; and The Rose, Houston. For more information on Dilon Diagnostics please visit www.dilon.com.