Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (High-Resolution Molecular Imaging of the Breast) : A Useful Adjunct to Breast Imaging

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INTRODUCTION

- **Mammography is considered the best method to screen patients for breast cancer with a high sensitivity but with a low specificity. In women with dense breasts the false negative rate may increase significantly.**
- **Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (High-Resolution Molecular Imaging of the Breast) is a novel physiologic approach to breast imaging in which radio-isotope is taken up by cells with a high metabolic activity such as the rapidly dividing cells in breast cancers.**
- **The purpose of this study is to evaluate Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI) as an adjunct imaging modality to mammography and breast ultrasound and to evaluate its sensitivity, specificity, positive and negative predictive values.**

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- 205 women who are at high risk for the development of breast cancer, newly diagnosed with breast cancer or had inconclusive mammography and ultrasound imaging underwent imaging with a dedicated high-resolution, breast-specific gamma camera (Dilon 6800, Dilon Technologies, Inc., Newport News, VA) following injection in an ante-cubital vein with 25.0-30.0 mCi 99m-Tc Sestamibi (Miraluma; DuPont Pharma, Billerica, Ma).
- They ranged in age from 22-90 with a mean of 53.6 years of age.
- Patients were imaged within 10 minutes of injection in the CC and MLO views bilaterally with additional views as deemed necessary by the radiologist.
- Images were determined to be normal, indeterminate or abnormal by two imagers.
- Additional mammography work-up, second-look ultrasound or MRI was used as needed to further evaluate foci of increased radiotracer uptake on BSGI.
- Patients with suspicious areas on mammography, ultrasound or BSGI imaging underwent biopsy or were followed for 6 to 12 months with mammography and/or ultrasound as deemed appropriate by the radiologist.

POPULATION

INDICATIONS FOR USE	
Personal History of Breast Cancer	22 (10%)
New Diagnosis of Breast Cancer	6 (2%)
Palpable Mass-Neg Mamm and Usg	22 (10%)
New Indeterminate Calcifications	20 (9%)
Family History Dense Breasts	27 (13%)
New area of Asymmetry of Nodule not Palp	108 (52%)

RESULTS

- Of the 205 women imaged, 157 had negative findings requiring no additional work-up.
- Of the 157 patients, 127 have had 6 or 12 month follow-up with no new findings.
- 48 biopsies were performed, of which 21 were positive and 27 were negative.
- Sensitivity of 90.5%, specificity of 87.5%, positive predictive value 45.2%, negative predictive value 98.7%.
- In patients with newly diagnosed cancer, BSGI findings resulted in a change in surgical management in 4 patients, 2 occult contra lateral cancers and 4 patients underwent mastectomy due to identification of more extensive disease.
- The smallest cancers identified were 5 mm, 7 mm and 8 mm.
- All ILC's were visualized by BSGI .
- There were 2 false negatives-grade one IDC 1 mm w/i DCIS and a 4mm grade 1 tubular cancer.
- There were 9 ILC and 4 LCIS.

STATISTICS
SENSITIVITY 90.5%
SPECIFICITY: 87.5%
PPV 45.2%
NPV 98.7%
BIOPSIES: 48 (6 in patients with negative scintis-4 negative biopsies , 2 positive)
POSITIVE: 21
NEGATIVE: 27

FALSE POSITIVES: 6 - fibroadenoma, 18 - fibrocystic tissue, 1- fat necrosis, 2 – localized inflammatory reaction

TRUE POSITIVES: 5 – Infiltrating ductal carcinomas, 9 – infiltrating lobular carcinomas, 4 – LCIS, 1 DCIS, 1 – tubular ca, 1 - pappiloma

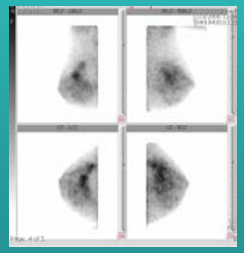
FALSE NEGATIVES: Same patient: 1mm IDC within DCIS grade 1 and one grade 1, 4mm tubular

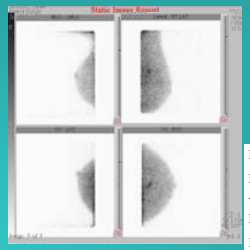
EXAMPLE CASES

Unsuspected Bilateral Breast Cancer

History – 52 year-old patient with two palpable masses in the left breast.
Mammogram – Diffuse bilateral density with no asymmetric density present in the area of the palpable mass. BIRADS 0.
Ultrasound – two hypoechoic lesions are noted in the areas of the palpable masses. BIRADS 4.
MRI - left breast - 2 abnormally enhancing masses consistent with malignancy. Right breast– diffuse enhancement but no focal abnormality.

BSGI – Left breast – two areas of high focal uptake are noted corresponding to the palpable masses, highly suspicious for malignancy.
Right breast –intense diffuse uptake, the intensity of this area and the asymmetric nature make it suspicious for malignancy.
Pathology – Left Breast – multifocal ductal carcinoma
Right breast - mastectomy showed diffuse lobular carcinoma in-situ.





7mm Lobular Carcinoma

History: 65 year-old with past Hx of left breast cancer 7 years ago.

Mammogram: Few nonspecific CA++ adjacent Vague area of Asymmetry rt UOQ not significantly different from Mamm of 2003.

BSGI Triangular area of uptake at vague asymmetry rt breast.

Pathology: Invasive Lobular Carcinoma with Positive Axillary Nodes.

Grade 3 Ductal Carcinoma

History: 55 year-old patient in for screening mammogram.

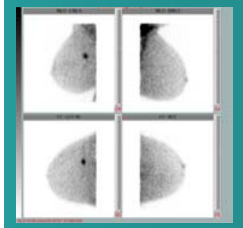
Mammogram: Moderately dense breast tissue. There is a new area of asymmetry in the left breast not present in previous mammograms. Recommend additional views and ultrasound. BIRADS 0.

Additional Views: Persistent density is observed, slightly irregular in shape however no abnormal calcifications are observed.

US: Markedly inhomogeneous echotexture. No definite solid lesion is seen.

BSGI: Focal area of increased uptake is noted in the left breast corresponding to the area of asymmetry in the mammographic views. Positive. Suggest tissue sampling.

Pathology: Needle biopsy: invasive ductal carcinoma nuclear grade 3, histologic grade 3. Mixed Lobular carcinoma and DCIS.



CONCLUSIONS

- We evaluated 205 patients in the first year of having BSGI in our institution. The majority of patients were referred for an indeterminate mammogram and/or ultrasound. History of breast cancer or new diagnosis of breast cancer as well as family history also warranted study.
- 48 biopsies were performed with appositive 21 and negative 27. Biopsy was avoided in patients who had negative BSGI and inconclusive mammography and ultrasound findings in 157 patients of whom 127 have had stable follow-up in six or twelve month interval.
- Sensitivity of 90.5%, Specificity of 87.5%, PPV of 45.2% and NPV of 98.7%. The outcome was altered in 4 patients who had mastectomy due to more extensive or bilateral cancer not diagnosed prior to BSGI imaging. No Infiltrating Lobular cancers were missed.
- Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (high-resolution molecular imaging of the breast) is a valuable technology that can help as an adjunct to mammography and breast ultrasound to diagnose unsuspected cancers with a high sensitivity, specificity, PPV and NPV.
- Further study is warranted to compare BSGI with MRI as well as larger multi-center studies of more long-term results. Specific tumor types should also be evaluated including DCIS, LCIS, ILC and IDC of different grades.