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Molecular Breast Imaging Proves Cost-Effective for Presurgical Planning In Patients with Breast Cancer

Chicago, December 1, 2008 — Breast-Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI), a molecular breast imaging technique that is substantially less expensive than breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with comparable in sensitivity for detecting breast carcinoma when used in presurgical planning for patients with known cancer diagnoses, according to findings presented today at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).

“According to the national Medicare average, BSGI costs \$219.43 compared to \$994.43 for breast MRI. Since BSGI has some advantages over MRI, including higher patient tolerance and significant cost savings, BSGI should be considered an alternative for preoperative planning in patients with breast carcinoma,” said Dr. Margaret Bertrand, Director of Breast Imaging at Solis Bertrand Breast Center in Greensboro, N.C.

In this study, BSGI was performed prior to needle biopsy on 63 patients with 64 breast malignancies who subsequently had a post-biopsy, preoperative breast MRI for surgical planning in accordance with the ACS guidelines. Of the 64 malignancies, BSGI and MRI were positive in 61 and 62 lesions, respectively. BSGI and MRI were comparable in sensitivity for breast carcinoma, 95 percent and 97 percent respectively. Unlike MRI, BSGI was tolerated by all patients.

BSGI for the study was conducted using a Dilon 6800 Gamma Camera, a high-resolution, small field-of-view gamma camera, optimized to perform BSGI. BSGI is a molecular breast imaging technique that can see lesions independent of tissue density and discover very early stage cancers. With BSGI, the patient receives a pharmaceutical tracing agent that is absorbed by all the cells in the body. Due to their increased rate of metabolic activity, cancerous cells in the breast absorb a greater amount of the tracing agent than the normal surrounding tissue and generally appear as “hot spots” on the BSGI image.

About Dilon Technologies

Dilon Technologies Inc. is bringing innovative new medical imaging products to market. Dilon’s cornerstone product, the Dilon 6800, is a high-resolution, small field-of-view 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 Technologies please visit www.dilon.com.

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