

Memorial Health Care System

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Digital Tomosynthesis Now at MaryEllen Locher Breast Center

Chattanooga, TN – The MaryEllen Locher Breast Center at Memorial now offers ground-breaking technology that allows mammograms to be viewed in 3D.

The new Selenia Dimensions 3-D mammography scan results in a stack of thin, high-resolution image slices intended to provide a clear rendition of structures in the breast and their spatial relationship with the surrounding breast tissue. Unlike prior-generation mammography systems, which generate two-dimensional images, breast tomosynthesis produces three-dimensional images which are intended to reveal the inner architecture of the breast free from the distortion typically caused by tissue shadowing or density.

Kathy Dittmar, director of the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center, said the new technology is a compliment to current services provided in the comprehensive center, which reduces the time women wait for diagnoses of breast concerns.

“The Selenia Dimensions 3D mammography equipment is another tool in our fight to detect and treat breast cancer,” she said. “Memorial is committed to providing its patients with the most technologically advanced equipment available so our team of physicians can offer you the best, most compassionate care available.”

The 3D mammography equipment provides one-touch control for seamless and instantaneous transition from two-dimensional full-field mammography to three-dimensional Tomosynthesis imaging. The technology also offers a “combo-mode” that merges a traditional digital mammogram with a 3D image simultaneously.

During a tomosynthesis scan, multiple low-dose images of the breast are acquired at different angles. The multiple images are combined to produce a series of one-millimeter thick slices that can be viewed as a single three dimensional reconstruction of the breast.

Memorial Health Care System is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to the healing ministry of the Church. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and strengthened as part of Catholic Health Initiatives, it offers a continuum of care including preventative, primary and acute hospital care, as well as cancer and cardiac care, orthopedic and rehabilitation services. Memorial is a regional referral center of choice with 4,000 associates and more than 700 affiliated physicians providing health care throughout Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia. Memorial Health Care System is recognized as one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® by Thomson Reuters, the health care industry's leading source of information on hospital quality. To learn more, visit www.memorial.org.