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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Full Field Digital Mammography Completes Comprehensive Breast Imaging Services at Sharon Hospital

Sharon, CT – Sharon Hospital's Radiology Department is pleased to announce the completion of its digital mammography suite featuring the Selenia™ digital mammography system from Hologic®. Striving to continually deliver the highest quality of care to patients, Sharon Hospital has acquired the most advanced breast imaging technology available.

"Digital mammography may be new to Sharon Hospital, but not to the radiologists who interpret them here. My colleagues and I interpret literally thousands of digital mammograms each year in our offices around the region" stated Victor D. Gaines, MD, Chief of Radiology at Sharon Hospital. "I am proud that the Radiology Department at Sharon Hospital now has the technology and expertise to offer the same diagnostic imaging and image-guided biopsy capabilities as the best academic university centers in America" he added.

As part of the Digital Mammography acquisition Sharon Hospital also obtained the Cedera I-Read Mammo multi modality; vendor neutral workstation as well as a digital upgrade to the existing R2 Checker - Breast Computer Aided Detection (CAD) System. These advanced applications enhance the power of digital mammography by digitally analyzing mammograms to locate regions that may be indicative of cancer and allowing the radiologist to enhance viewing by manipulating contrast and brightness of the digital image as well as magnify areas of increased suspicion.

In addition to Digital Mammography, Sharon Hospital's Radiology Department continues to offer Breast Ultrasound, Breast MRI, Breast and Associated Lymph System Imaging as well as MRI and Ultrasound Guided Breast Biopsy and Stereotactic Breast Biopsy, in compliance with FDA/MQSA standards. The introduction of digital mammography and its advanced image processing closes the loop in breast imaging at Sharon Hospital. This affords patients a comprehensive approach to breast imaging through advanced technologies, a team of board certified radiologists and surgeons, registered technologists, and specially trained nurses committed to personal care.

"We are very pleased to have the continued opportunity to offer our patients the latest innovations in breast imaging and breast cancer detection" states Carolyn Smith, Director of Radiology at Sharon Hospital. "Digital mammography is quickly becoming the standard in breast imaging. Mammography is still the best tool for early diagnosis, giving patients a much better chance of survival and the ability to lead a long, productive life" she added.

For more information about Breast Imaging Services at Sharon Hospital or to schedule an appointment for a full field digital mammogram, please call Women's Imaging at Sharon Hospital at 860.364.4468.

Frequently Asked Questions About Full Field Digital Mammography

Q. Why Full Field Digital Mammography?

A. Digital mammography transfers images to a computer so they can be electronically enhanced. This provides better image quality, greater image flexibility, faster results and shorter exam times.

Q. How long will my digital mammogram take?

A. Usually 10 to 15 minutes

Q. Do I need to go to the same provider for my exam?

A. You may go anywhere you choose. It's your choice!

Q. Do I need to do anything before the exam?

A. Don't wear deodorant or powder the day of the exam because it could affect the image. Wear a two-piece outfit because you'll have to undress from the waist up. Schedule your mammogram shortly after the end of your last period to lessen any discomfort.

Q. Does digital mammography still require compression of the breast?

A. Yes, a proper compression may decrease radiation and will improve the image for the radiologist.

Q. What is a softer mammogram?

A. We use foam mammo pads placed on the machine to cushion the breast. This also reduces coldness from the machine.

Q. Should I be nervous having a mammogram?

A. No. You should be relieved and happy knowing you're doing something important for you!

Sharon Hospital is a licensed and certified mammography facility.

Selenia™ Digital Mammography Facts

Selenia uses direct technology with an amorphous selenium detector to directly convert x-rays into an image for the radiologist to view. This technology improves the sharpness of the images by completely eliminating the image-degrading effects of light diffusion which results from indirect technology.

- Direct capture technology offers improved visibility of the breast, particularly near the skin line, the chest wall and in women with dense breast tissue.
- Selenia offers a detector size of 24 cm x 29 cm, the largest in the industry, accommodating almost all breast sizes with a single exposure.
- Digital mammography images can be viewed in seconds allowing the mammographer to confirm proper positioning reducing the likelihood of having to come back for additional images.
- Selenia offers exceptional diagnostic tools for the radiologists which assists in providing immediate results of the mammography exam.
- SecurViewDX diagnostic workstations are dedicated digital mammography review stations with efficient workflow and image manipulation tools for the radiologist.
- SecurViewDX workstations offer radiologists customizable reading preferences, simple, intuitive image manipulation and annotation, plus integrated reporting tools to increase efficiency, productivity and diagnostic comfort for digital mammography interpretation.
- SecurViewRT technologist workstations enable bi-directional electronic communication between the technologist and the radiologist for streamlined workflow and higher patient throughput.
- SecurViewRT workstations bring a new level of flexibility and enhanced communication to the breast-imaging suite with access to studies from multiple workstations.

Breast Cancer Facts

If you would like additional information about breast cancer and breast cancer resources visit:

www.hologic.com, www.cancer.org, www.nationalbreastcancer.org, www.youngsurvival.org

- Over two million breast cancer survivors are alive in the U.S. today
- A woman's chance of developing cancer in her lifetime is 1 in 8
- A new breast cancer is diagnosed every 2.5 minutes
- 88 percent of the pre-invasive breast cancer diagnosed is ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS)
- One American woman dies from breast cancer every 13 minutes
- Nearly 40,000 women die from breast cancer each year
- Only lung cancer causes more cancer deaths in women
- Approximately 1,500 male breast cancer cases will be diagnosed this year, and 400 men will die from the disease
- The American Cancer Society spends nearly \$100 million a year to research a cure for breast cancer

*2005 Cancer Facts and Figures, American Cancer Society

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