



NEWS RELEASE
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ARMC ENHANCES BREAST CANCER BIOPSY SERVICES

Colton, CA – Stereotactic biopsies for the detection of breast cancer have been enhanced at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, providing more patients with a less-invasive alternative to surgical biopsies.

ARMC has offered stereotactic biopsies – which do not require surgical intervention – for several years, though existing equipment and technology limited the number of patients who qualified for the procedure. New, state-of-the-art equipment provided through a contractual partnership with Dedicated Biopsy Services of Norco will enable even more ARMC patients to consider the procedure as an option.

“There are tremendous benefits to stereotactic biopsies and we are pleased to now be able to offer the latest in dedicated technology in this area,” said ARMC Surgeon Dr. David T. Wong. “The design of the dedicated equipment allows more patients to consider stereotactic, which is less invasive and causes less pain.”

Stereotactic biopsies are less-invasive and enable the patient to recover more quickly because they are done using local anesthesia and require a smaller incision – typically about a quarter-inch in length. Surgical biopsies are done under general anesthesia and require incisions that are from one to two inches in length.

The new biopsy equipment enables the patient to lie prone, with the breast placed through an opening in the exam table, for more comfort. Previously, biopsies were done with the patient in a sitting position. The new system allows radiologists to access most areas of concern in the breast. “It gives us a 360-degree range so we can usually reach the area we are trying to pinpoint,” Dr. Wong said. “In some instances in the past, the equipment didn’t allow us to do this. In those cases, the patient had to be sent out to another facility or was given the option of a surgical biopsy.”

ARMC currently is scheduling approximately 12 stereotactic biopsies monthly. Dr. Wong estimated that the Medical Center soon may perform as many as 24 in a month.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that in 2008 about 178,480 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States. Also, according to the CDC, there are 1.6 million women in the United States living with breast cancer and don’t know it.

MORE

ARMC provides comprehensive cancer services, including medical, surgical and radiation oncology, mammography, clinical breast exams, breast health education and support services.

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