

South Texas Radiology Imaging Centers announces first all Digital Mammography Conversion in San Antonio:

San Antonio, Texas (March 28, 2007): South Texas Radiology Imaging Centers (STRIC) is pleased to announce the addition of whole breast digital mammography services throughout its facilities. The conversion from traditional film mammography to digital mammography is significant for the San Antonio community. STRIC is the first of imaging facilities in San Antonio to offer whole breast digital mammography at all sites where mammography is performed. This represents the installation of eleven digital units at nine sites all within a few short months. According to Gary Woodard, CEO of STRIC, "it was important to convert all the units at once in an effort to provide the same level of service and quality throughout our multiple sites." "This will provide consistency of care and ensure that all of our patients and their referring physicians receive the same quality exam no matter what location they may choose for convenience."

According to the breast imaging radiologists with STRIC, "the plan to convert from traditional film mammography to digital mammography immediately followed a publication of the results of a long awaited national mammography comparison study between the types of mammography examinations." In the fall of 2005 the improved detection of Breast Cancer in premenopausal or perimenopausal patients under the age of 50 with dense breasts was documented in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM 2005;353;1773-83, Sept 16, 2005- see attached). "The results of this study prompted us to make the transition from film based mammography to a 100% whole breast digital mammography practice in order to provide our patients with optimal diagnostic capabilities."

The digital mammogram examinations are interpreted on high resolution computer work stations without the use of actual film. This enables further manipulation of the image to provide additional information. Additionally, STRIC purchased a CAD (Computer Aided Detection) system that electronically evaluates the digital data and marks areas of suspicious abnormality. This serves as a double interpretation to aide the radiologist in the interpretation of the exam.

South Texas Radiology Imaging Centers specializes in full service outpatient diagnostic imaging and offers 16 locations in and around San Antonio.

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