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Breakthrough in MRI-guided Biopsies Gives Doctors a Powerful New Weapon in the Fight against Breast Cancer

For women at high risk of breast cancer, life can be filled with uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. Feelings of powerlessness and loss of control are common when dealing with the health system, and the testing and exams can be quite painful. Even with no previous signs of cancer, women at high risk with gene mutations BRCA1 and BRCA2 need to go through an examination at least twice a year.

If an abnormality is found, the false-positive rate can be as high as 25%. In addition, while MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) has enabled radiologists to accurately identify tumors missed by mammography and ultrasound, confirmation is still accomplished through tissue biopsy, either by painful surgical excision or sometimes inaccurate needle sampling.

To alleviate some of these problems, **Advanced Diagnostic Imaging** is offering women in high-risk breast cancer groups a revolutionary new tool to detect and treat breast cancer earlier and more accurately. The procedure is called **MRI-guided core needle biopsy**, and is rapidly becoming the method of choice for doctors in assessing hard-to-detect breast abnormalities.

To date, **Advanced Diagnostic Imaging** is the only provider in the Cedar Valley doing MRI-guided biopsies, logging over 20 per month.

The advantages of MRI-guided core needle biopsy are important for women who are at high-risk for developing breast cancer. Using MRI-guidance, doctors can now sample abnormal areas, yielding earlier diagnosis and more accurate staging. The machine allows doctors to identify and target abnormal areas and accurately place a core biopsy needle at the site for sampling.

The MRI-guided core needle biopsy procedure is relatively simple. The patient lies on her stomach, and the breast is placed in a MRI coil. A limited MRI is performed. A radiologist uses a computer to pinpoint the exact location of the abnormality. The biopsy needle is placed at the location of the abnormality, another scan is done to ensure accurate placement of the needle, and the samples are taken.

MRI-guided core needle biopsy is not a replacement for mammogram and should be used in conjunction with mammography. Doctor's suggest women at high risk should space mammography and MRI in six month intervals so they can get a check twice a year.

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging is the only provider for MRI-guided biopsies in the Cedar Valley area, and is experienced with their administration, performing over 70 in April, May, and June of this year alone. **ADI** reports, when the MRI-guided biopsies are done with the proper diagnoses, insurance is now paying for them.

For more information please call **ADI** directly at **319-236-2700**.