

## **Early Breast Cancer Technology Takes a Major Step Forward!**

The mammography department at Montrose Memorial Hospital is excited to announce that they are “going digital!” Beginning the week of June 22, all mammogram studies will use digital technology. With digital mammography, x-ray images can be displayed on a computer workstation allowing the radiologist to magnify or optimize a particular area and adjust the contrast of the image. Since the digital mammogram doesn’t need to be developed, the technologist can immediately verify that the images are clear and complete, thus shortening your exam time.

A recent study completed by the American College of Radiology Imaging Network has proven that digital mammography is especially effective for women under 50; women who are pre-menopausal or in its beginning stages; and women with dense breasts. In this study, which included more than 42,000 women, digital mammograms found cancers that traditional mammograms may have missed.

The new digital technology will enhance our already outstanding mammography service. This department is accredited by the American College of Radiology and the Federal Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA); which assures that you will receive the highest quality images. Our radiologists are Board Certified and our technologists are registered in Radiology and Mammography. This means the Mammographers have completed 40 additional hours of study specific to mammography, completed supervised practical work, successfully passed certification exams, and taken post-graduate continuing education courses to maintain certification from the American College of Radiology. But what truly distinguishes us in our region is the competence and compassion of our staff members. Professionals in every way, they know our patients depend on them, and they take that responsibility very seriously.

Remember that early detection is still the single most effective way to beat breast cancer. No matter what kind of mammogram you get—film or digital, the important thing is that you make timely mammography screening a top priority for yourself and the women you care about. Because your health is important to us and we know your life can be very busy; MMH is pleased to let you know that we will offer evening and Saturday mammogram appointments starting this month. If you have questions, or need to schedule an appointment, please call 252-2540.