St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Marketing Department

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ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL INTRODUCES STEREOTACTIC BREAST BIOPSY SYSTEM

Belleville – St. Elizabeth's Hospital is now offering Stereotactic Breast Biopsy, a minimally invasive procedure in which a breast biopsy is guided by imaging equipment specifically designed for this type of breast biopsy. This system, along with our Hologic digital mammography equipment, works seamlessly to provide excellent breast diagnosis and is another tool for the early diagnosis of breast cancer.

Located in the Mammography Department on the main floor of the hospital, the system was installed March 15 and is now fully operational for physicians and their patients.

During a general breast biopsy, doctors remove a small sample of breast tissue and examine it for the presence of cancer cells. Such procedures are typically ordered after the detection of a lump or when a diagnostic exam finds an irregularity.

Stereotactic biopsy is used to take samples from an area that cannot be felt during a breast exam but was seen on a mammogram. It's one way to get a tissue sample from a specific location when an abnormality appears, such as microcalcifications, an irregularly shaped mass, or a new mass at a previous surgery site.

During the stereotactic breast biopsy procedure, a physician guides a small probe into the breast through a quarter-inch incision and gently collects suspicious tissue samples for evaluation. The system results in highly accurate breast diagnosis with minimal pain, scarring and recovery time for patients.

The outpatient procedure can be completed in approximately an hour and most patients return to light activity immediately after. In addition, the biopsy incision is so small that just an adhesive bandage is needed to cover it. No sutures are required, and there is minimal scarring.

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the United States and the second leading cause of death in women. Mammography is still the most effective breast cancer-screening tool available today. The American Cancer Society suggests women begin getting yearly mammograms at age 40. Women at higher risk may need to get screened earlier and more frequently and should discuss this issue with their physician.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital offers digital mammograms at three locations for our patients' convenience and ease - Belleville, O'Fallon and Monroe County. To schedule a mammogram appointment at any of our locations, call **222-4639**.

About St. Elizabeth's Hospital St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Belleville, IL, maintains a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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