

Merit Health Woman's Hospital now offering FDA-approved automated breast ultrasound system for screening

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Merit Health Woman's Hospital announced in September that they are on the forefront of breast care by now offering the Invenia™ ABUS 2.0 (Automated Breast Ultrasound System), approved by the FDA for breast cancer screening as an adjunct to mammography for women with dense breast tissue.

"We are excited to add the Automated Breast Ultrasound system to our comprehensive breast cancer screening program. By offering ABUS in addition to mammography for our patients with dense breast tissue, we anticipate improving detection for small cancers that cannot be seen on a mammogram alone in these women. We believe ABUS will become an integral part of our practice for the detection of breast cancer," said Bryan Lantrip, MD, Radiologist at Merit Health.

Dense breast tissue has been found to be the most common risk factor for the development of cancer (Engmann, et al., JAMA, February 2017) and also makes cancer more difficult to detect us-

ing mammography, according to multiple large studies. As breast density goes up, the accuracy of mammograms goes down (Kolb et al Radiology, October 2002). The difficulty radiologists experience when reading mammograms is that both dense tissue and cancer appear white on a mammogram. With ABUS, suspicious masses appear black against the white dense tissue.

In early 2019, a national density inform law was passed that mandates that the FDA update mammography reporting so that women be notified if their breasts are dense. Providers may offer supplemental imaging as appropriate to help find cancers hiding in dense breast tissue.

"Mammography is the gold standard for the detection of breast cancer; however, it doesn't work equally well in all women, particularly those with dense breast tissue," added Edgar Barham,



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MD, Radiologist at Merit Health. "Designed and built specifically for screening, research shows that ABUS technology as an adjunct to mammography has the potential to find 35.7 percent additional cancers that would not have been found with mammography alone," said Dr. Barham.

The Invenia ABUS 2.0 system is FDA-approved for breast cancer screening in the United States as an adjunct to mammography for women with dense breast tissue. The Invenia ABUS 2.0 system is designed to enhance the consistency, reproducibility, and sensitivity of breast ultrasound, demonstrating a 35.7 percent improvement in cancer

detection (sensitivity) in women with dense breasts without prior breast intervention. (FDA PMA Approval P110006, Sept. 18, 2012.)

The unique challenges of breast cancer screening led to important technology innovations that result high resolution images that can be acquired rapidly. Clinically, this offers an efficient option that provides enhanced resolution and contrast, making the Invenia ABUS 2.0 system well positioned to address the workflow challenges of breast cancer screening and improve the detection of breast cancer, in women with dense breasts.

Drs. Lantrip & Barham recommend that women get regular mammograms as suggested by their doctor, and if they have been informed that they have dense breast tissue, they should talk to their doctor or radiologist about their specific risk and additional screening tests that might be appropriate.

For further information about Invenia ABUS 2.0, visit www.merithealthwomanshospital.com/automated-breast-ultrasound.

ERA continues to excel in cross country



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East Rankin Academy (ERA)'s women varsity and JV cross country teams won October 15's Rankin County Championships with five girls in the Top 10 of both races. ERA JV boys were fourth with two Top 10 finishers. Twelve ERA athletes were named to the All Rankin County team. The meet was hosted by Northwest Rankin and featured men and women's varsity and JV teams from NW Rankin HS, Brandon HS, Puckett HS, Pisgah HS and Richland HS.



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