

It is Ringgold County Hospital's fundamental responsibility to deliver the highest quality of care to every member of our community, and that is why Ringgold County Hospital is pleased to announce the next step in fighting breast cancer. At the new facility, technologists will be screening patients using digital mammography, a more advanced technology used in the detection of breast cancer.

Ringgold County Hospital is a certified Pink Ribbon Facility, a distinction awarded only to an elite group of healthcare facilities. Digital mammography offers a number of other practical advantages and patient conveniences. Because there is no waiting for film to be developed it significantly reduces the time patients are at the hospital, as well as reduce the need for repeat exams due to under or over exposure. Digital images are easily stored and transferred electronically, eliminating the dependency on one set of original films, which can be misfiled or lost in transit. A digital mammogram is similar to a traditional film screen mammography in the way that both use compression and x-rays to generate images of the breast. Both digital and film-screen mammography works to reduce breast cancer mortality.

In addition to the digital images acquired at Ringgold County Hospital, mammogram patients have another benefit. The radiologist, doctor that reports on findings on medical imaging procedures, has a second set of eyes with the use of CAD (computer-aided detection). CAD is software that analyzes the digital representation of the mammogram image and marks suspicious areas for the radiologist to review in association with their own reading of the image. CAD is a device that helps in the detection of cancer. Medicare and many insurers reimburse for the application of CAD.

#### Digital Mammography Patient Advantages

- Enhances viewing options- Images can be manipulate to zoom in/out, adjust contrast, magnify and more.
- Detects micro-calcifications (similar to revealing a grain of salt in a ball of clay).
- Surpasses convention film based systems because results in less exposure to x-rays.
- Improves patient comfort with shorter examination times (about 10 to 15 minutes).

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer related death among women, exceeded only by lung cancer. Statistics indicate that one in eight women will develop breast cancer sometime in her life. The stage at which breast cancer is detected influences a woman's survival. If detected early, the five-year survival rate is 97%.

Ringgold County Hospital is committed to the fight against breast cancer. Ringgold County Hospital is a not for profit health care organization with the primary mission of offering high quality acute health care and preventative medical care in a caring and compassionate manner to all people who live in, work in or visit Ringgold County and its surrounding area. For further information about Ringgold County Hospital please call 641-464-3226 or visit our web site [www.rchmtayr.org](http://www.rchmtayr.org).