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## **NEWS**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Saint Luke's East–Lee's Summit to open Center for Breast Care**

*Center provides an array of convenient services*

*LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.* – Eastern Jackson County patients now have access to advanced, comprehensive breast care at the new Center for Breast Care at Saint Luke's East–Lee's Summit.

The center will open on Monday, Sept. 14, 2009. Patients benefit from an array of services and expertise at one convenient location:

- Walk-in mammograms available
- High-resolution imaging
- Screening and diagnostic full-field digital mammography
- Diagnostic breast ultrasound using non-invasive sound waves to image breast tissue
- Dedicated breast MRI designed specifically to provide superior image quality and maximize patient comfort
- Computer Aided Detection (CAD) analyzes the mammogram image and marks suspicious areas for radiologists to review
- Mammopads for added mammography comfort
- Stereotactic breast biopsy with vacuum-assisted needle
- Multiple ultrasound-guided biopsy techniques
- Cyst aspirations
- MRI-guided breast biopsy with vacuum-assisted needle
- Needle localizations with mammographic, sonographic or MRI guidance
- Clinical breast exam by a certified health care professional
- Breast surgeon for consultation and assessment
- Pre-treatment multidisciplinary planning conference
- Newly diagnosed patient information
- Breast cancer support services

- Individual counseling
- Genetic counseling by board-certified counselors trained to evaluate personal and family history to identify genetic risk factors
- Access to clinical research trials through affiliation with Saint Luke's Cancer Institute
- Nurse navigator to coordinate care from diagnosis through recovery and facilitate communication with patient's medical team to ensure timely, efficient care
- Services certified by the American College of Radiology and the Missouri Quality Standards Act

“Because we have biopsy capability on-site, we can perform a breast biopsy on the same day that the breast abnormality is found and often have pathology results to the patient on the following day,” said Ruby Meierotto, M.D., breast radiologist at Saint Luke's East–Lee's Summit. “This diagnostic process is far more efficient because it eliminates the need to transfer patients' films and care to another facility. The patient wait time is decreased and the stress related to waiting is minimized.”

Fellowship trained radiologists with advanced education in breast imaging provide the highest level of clinical expertise. The Center for Breast Care at Saint Luke's East–Lee's Summit is among the only Kansas City metro area centers to exclusively employ fellowship trained radiologists to interpret the breast imaging and perform breast procedures.

“Patients benefit from radiologists highly skilled in breast imaging interpretation,” said Gloria Solis, chief nursing officer/chief operating officer, Saint Luke's East–Lee's Summit.

“Most general radiologists are responsible for the entire body and a considerable amount of broad information,” said Dr. Meierotto. “Our radiologists specialize solely in breast imaging and breast procedures to stay current on the latest developing technologies and truly hone and perfect our skills in this particular field.”

Breast MRI is emerging as a critical tool in the fight against breast disease. Some clinical indications for breast MRI include pre-operative evaluation for patients with known breast cancer; screening for high-risk patients (lifetime risk greater than 15-20 percent); assessment of silicone gel implant integrity in patients with breast augmentation; and further evaluation for abnormal physical exam, mammography and/or breast ultrasound findings.

“In the past, some physicians and patients have been hesitant to use breast MRI because of high false positive rates and unnecessary biopsies,” said Dr. Meierotto. “These false positives have been significantly reduced with the superior technology of the dedicated breast MRI. This technology, in combination with a specialized radiologist interpreting the images, will give the patients the best possible results.”

The Center for Breast Care at Saint Luke's East–Lee's Summit is home to the only Aurora dedicated breast MRI in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.

As an FDA-cleared dedicated breast MRI system, it is designed specifically for the diagnosis and management of breast disease. All components, from the patient bed to the integrated biopsy capability, are created solely for breast MRI.

“Unlike traditional whole body MRI machines that can image the entire body, every component of the Aurora dedicated breast MRI system has been engineered exclusively to image the breasts. Not only does this maximize patient comfort, it also optimizes the images for radiologist interpretation,” said Dr. Meierotto. “The image quality provided by dedicated breast MRI is far superior to any I have experienced from traditional MRI machines.”

The staff utilizes an interdisciplinary team approach consisting of radiologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, genetic counselors, nurse navigators and surgeons. This knowledgeable, specialized team coordinates the patient experience to ensure efficient, compassionate care.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (816) 347-5700 or visit [saintlukeshealthsystem.org](http://saintlukeshealthsystem.org).

*Saint Luke's East – Lee's Summit is a member of Saint Luke's Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and several primary and specialty care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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