



PEM scanners may reduce unnecessary breast biopsies and offer an alternative for women who cannot tolerate MRI.

SAN DIEGO, CA – March 15, 2010 – New data from an NIH-sponsored, multi-site study of hundreds of women with newly diagnosed breast cancer shows that Positron Emission Mammography (PEM) may reduce unnecessary breast biopsies. The study found that PEM was significantly more precise at identifying benign and cancerous lesions, in what scientists call “Positive Predictive Value” or “PPV,” therefore reducing the number of unnecessary biopsies. A common physician complaint regarding the use of Breast MRI is its tendency to identify suspicious lesions, requiring biopsies, which ultimately are found to be benign.

This finding is a welcomed outcome for women and physicians looking for ways to reduce the patient trauma associated with biopsies and for payors looking to reduce the costs associated with unnecessary procedures. The 388 woman study showed that PEM not only demonstrated a six percent improvement in specificity at comparably high sensitivity, but that PEM also had 31 fewer unnecessary biopsies and 26% higher PPV than Breast MR. These results are also particularly significant for those women who cannot tolerate an MR exam and require an alternate imaging tool.

“The results of this study mean that not only do physicians have an additional, powerful tool to help treat breast cancer but that PEM is a legitimate and better alternative for the 16% of women who cannot tolerate MR due to claustrophobia, metallic implants, body habitus, or gadolinium reaction,” said Wendie Berg, M.D., Ph.D. and Principal Investigator for the trial. Berg recently published an article in the January 2010 issue in the journal *Radiology* examining the reasons why high-risk women who were recommended for a MR breast screening test refused to take the exam.

PEM scanners are high-resolution breast PET systems that can show the location as well as the metabolic phase of a lesion. This information is critical in determining whether a lesion is malignant and influences the course of treatment. Other imaging systems, such as mammography and ultrasound, show only the location, not the metabolic phase. PEM scanners, which are about the size of an ultrasound system, are manufactured by Naviscan, Inc. and have been commercially available since 2007.

The NIH-sponsored multi-site study (NIH Grant 5R44CA103102) examined women with newly-diagnosed breast cancer. Patients were accrued from six leading clinical centers across the country: ARS Johns Hopkins Green Spring, Boca Raton Community Hospital, Scripps Clinic-Scripps Green Hospital, University of North Carolina, University of Southern California Norris Cancer Center, and Anne Arundel Medical Center.

About Naviscan, Inc.

Naviscan founded in 1995, develops and markets compact, high-resolution PET scanners intended to provide organ-specific molecular imaging and guide radiological and surgical procedures. The Naviscan PET scanner is currently installed and available in breast and imaging centers throughout the U.S. and other parts of the world. The Company is headquartered in San Diego, California and is the first to obtain FDA clearance for a high-resolution PET scanner designed to image small body parts and for breast biopsy image guidance.

Contact Information

Guillaume Bailliard
VP, Marketing
Naviscan, Inc.
Tel: (858) 332-0941
www.naviscan.com