

*141 MRI for Breast Cancer*

October 13, 2008

Intro: Research proves that screening for breast cancer with mammograms saves lives. But mammograms are not perfect. They can miss tumors, especially in women with dense breast tissue. That's why Doctors at Mayo Clinic also use MRI's to screen for breast cancer in high risk women. The technology can detect some tumors that mammograms cannot.

**Video**

**Total running time 1:22**

**Audio**

"THIS IS A PICTURE OF MY  
GRANDPARENTS."

MELANIE AKASON IS AT HIGH RISK  
FOR BREAST CANCER. SEVERAL  
WOMEN IN HER FAMILY HAVE HAD  
BREAST OR OVARIAN CANCER AND  
MELANIE CARRIES A BREAST  
CANCER GENE.

**CG :12 to :16**

**Melanie Akason**

**Has breast cancer gene**

"I DISCOVERED SEVERAL YEARS  
AGO THAT I AM A BRCA-1 CARRIER.  
I COME IN EVERY SIX MONTHS TO  
HAVE AN EXAM."

**CG :20 to :26**

**Sandhya Pruthi, M.D.**

"FOR HIGH RISK WOMEN, MRI HAS

**Mayo Clinic**

BEEN SHOWN TO BE BETTER THAN MAMMOGRAPHY IN DETECTING DISEASE AT ITS EARLIEST STAGE.” MRI’S CAN PICK UP CANCERS THAT MAMMOGRAMS SOMETIMES MISS, ESPECIALLY IN WOMEN WITH DENSE BREAST TISSUE.

THIS MRI OF ANOTHER PATIENT LIT UP A CANCEROUS TUMOR NOT VISIBLE ON A MAMMOGRAM.

**CG :39 to :46**

**Dana Whaley, M.D.**

**Mayo Clinic**

“THE CORRESPONDING AREA WOULD BE UP HERE. IT DOESN’T SHOW UP AS BEING SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT THAN THE REMAINDER OF THE TISSUE.”

**Standup**

**CG :56 to 1:07**

MRI GIVES DOCTORS A CLEARER LOOK AT DENSE BREAST TISSUE, BUT IT HAS LIMITATIONS. IT’S EXPENSIVE AND IT CAN MISS TINY CALCIFICATIONS REGULARLY PICKED UP BY MAMMOGRAMS. SO THE KEY IS TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN MAMMOGRAMS AND

MRI. DOCTOR PRUTHI SAYS THAT'S  
WHAT THE AMERICAN CANCER  
SOCIETY RECOMMENDS.  
"THEY DID NOT SAY MRI IN THE  
PLACE OF MAMMOGRPAHY. THEY  
SAID HIGH RISK WOMEN WERE TO  
BE GIVEN BOTH."  
TWO COMPLEMENTARY  
SCREENING TOOLS TO HELP  
DETECT BREAST CANCER EARLY  
WHILE IT'S STILL CURABLE.  
"I FEEL LUCKY THAT I CAN HAVE  
THIS TESTING."  
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN  
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

In addition to these two screening tools, researchers are looking into other methods of screening for women with dense breast tissue. One test that holds much promise is called molecular breast imaging. It may be better than mammograms at detecting cancer, yet less expensive than MRI's.

For more information on breast cancer screening, visit our Website at...[STATIONS: Per the licensing agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to <http://www.mayoclinic.org> or voice tag "mayoclinic.org" for more information.]