



# WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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Phone: **304-455-8111**

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### WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL OFFERS DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY

**PHOTO ATTACHED: (l-r) Wetzel County Hospital Radiology staff Michelle Pleskonko – R.T.(R)(M), Vicki Ensinger, R.T.(R)(M) and Tama Melott, R.T.(R)(M) shown with the new digital mammography equipment.**

New Martinsville, WV – Wetzel County Hospital has announced that it now provides the latest and most modern mammography in the upper Ohio Valley. A Hologic Selenia™ digital mammography system was recently installed in the radiology department. The Hologic Selenia mammography system incorporates revolutionary imaging technology that provides incredibly sharp breast images. Digital mammography will help WCH detect breast cancer much sooner. The images appear on the technologist's monitor in a matter of seconds, there is no waiting for film to develop, which means less time in the breast imaging suite for patients.

Wetzel County Hospital is a certified Pink Ribbon Facility, a distinction awarded only to an elite group of healthcare facilities. By offering women digital mammograms, the facility hopes to increase the number of area women who follow recommendations for regular screening mammograms.

Hologic Selenia digital mammography offers a number of other practical advantages and patient conveniences. With this new technology, the radiologist can literally, on the computer screen, magnify the image in one spot many times if so desired. They can also

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lighten and darken the image to enhance areas of concern. With digital mammography, images are easily stored and transferred electronically, eliminating the dependency on one set of original films, which can be misfiled or lost in transit

George Couch, Chief Executive Officer of Wetzel County Hospital, and Pam Deel, Director of Radiology, recently presented the new equipment to the Radiology Department. A new separate dressing and waiting room with flat screen television has been installed beside the mammogram suite for the patient's convenience. "All of our mammogram images are interpreted by Board Certified Radiologists" said Deel, noting Radiology Associates, Inc of Wheeling provide radiologist services at Wetzel County Hospital. "The images are available much quicker now and the radiologist can notify the physician right away if something is detected," stated Deel.

This advancement in mammography can mean earlier detection which allows for more options and treatments. Deel explained that before digital mammography, women sometimes did not find out they had cancer until it was in later stages. "Stage one breast cancer is now being detected much sooner giving patients a higher survival rate and more treatment options when detected early." said Deel. She continued that even small calcifications in the breast tissue show up much better with digital mammography.

Deel explained digital mammography is a plus when women need a biopsy. The images from this procedure are available in the room with the radiologist during the procedure. Digital mammography makes the procedure go more quickly than before, thanks to the enhanced image technology.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer 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 chance of survival. If detected early, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer is 97%.

Wetzel County Hospital is committed to the fight against breast cancer. In offering digital mammography along with 32-slice CT, 4-D ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, M.R.I. and basic radiological procedures integrated with the latest all digital PACS image storage and retrieval, Wetzel County Hospital provides the latest in imaging quality. If you would like to schedule a mammogram or have questions about this important breast health procedure contact the Radiology Department at 304-455-8090.

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