

NEBRASKA HEALTHCARE PROFILES

Blending Care and Comfort



The Women's Center at Advanced Medical Imaging combines knowledge with an expertly crafted atmosphere for a thorough, comfortable experience.

In 2019, Advanced Medical Imaging (AMI) renovated its Women's Center, creating a spa-like retreat with comprehensive breast screenings using the most cutting-edge technology available.

"We strive to be a leader in women's and diagnostic imaging," says Dr. Mary Curtis, diagnostic radiologist with the Women's Center. "We offer full imaging, screening, and mammography services, including digital breast tomosynthesis and high-resolution breast MRIs for women at a high risk for breast cancer."

Additionally, the Women's Center provides state-of-the-art biopsy capabilities—including mammogram-, ultrasound-, and MRI-guided biopsies—for abnormalities detected during a screening. The team of well-trained radiologists and technologists delivers a comfortable experience and efficient yet careful interpretation of results.

Making the Women's Center unique is its connection to AMI's Surgery Center. "The Surgery Center can treat various concerns we diagnose, including pelvic pain due to uterine fibroids and vascular problems such as pelvic venous insufficiency," Dr. Curtis explains.

THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

"New patients are not going to get a typical medical clinic experience," says Sarah Bonesteel, manager at the Women's Center. To cultivate a calm, relaxed atmosphere, patients are offered warm robes and refreshments upon arrival, and every breast biopsy patient leaves with a rose as an encouragement from the center's staff. "We want them to know that we're going above and beyond to give them that extra care," Bonesteel notes.

The Women's Center offers a Mammo Club, which encourages women to take charge of their breast health, with reminders for annual mammograms, monthly gifts, and mammogram screening parties (with themes ranging from the tropical "Freshly Squeezed" to the drink-inspired "Mammos and Margs") to promote breast health awareness.

"We want to make having your mammogram a celebration," Bonesteel says.



WOMEN'S CENTER ADVANCEMENTS

In 2020, the Women's Center launched its Breast Care Coordination program, in which patients facing a new cancer diagnosis work with staff to determine the best course of care. "It empowers women to make their own choices regarding care and informs them of the resources available here in Lincoln so they understand they don't have to leave the city or state to get excellent care," says Erin Lichter, director of imaging at AMI.

The Women's Center also utilizes breast density software and a breast cancer risk calculator, the Tyrer-Cuzick model (TC), to determine a patient's likelihood of developing breast cancer. "The TC score informs women and supports decisions to go on for genetic counseling or additional testing," Dr. Curtis explains. "We ask questions about family, menstrual, and childbirth history and gather information about prior biopsies to help determine their risk." In its effort to ensure all women receive the breast health information they need, the Women's Center has helped rural hospitals implement 3D mammography and density software for breast screenings and breast cancer risk calculations.

"Breast cancer is a life-altering condition," says Dr. Curtis. "We all know women who have gone through it and can relate to them. We always keep our patients' best interests at heart."

