



Advancing Radiology

Synergy Radiology Associates is growing the potential of medical imaging with technological innovation, diverse specialists, and compassionate, patient-centered care.

Medical advancements in technology increase the potential of treatment across all fields of medicine, but few are seeing as dynamic a development as radiology.

With more than 90 board-certified radiologists across Texas and beyond, Synergy Radiology Associates is a Houston-based leader in diagnostic imaging, vascular and interventional radiology, and breast imaging. From diagnosis to treatment, the group's diverse specialists provide an integrated, targeted approach to minimally invasive, comprehensive care—often with same-day results.

"Patients are individuals with unique sets of pathologies that require care from a variety of specialists and consultants," says Ram K. Rao, M.D., president. "If a patient has cancer that spreads to additional organs or body sites, they need multiple teams that can target those advanced tumors. It might require a general surgeon, interventional radiologist, and radiation oncologist brainstorming together to determine the best care according to the patient's needs and comfort level."

Innovative Healing

Providing new minimally invasive treatments, advancements in radiology often move beyond time-consuming and physically limiting surgical options for cancer, chronic pain, vascular disease, or other health concerns.

"For example, after speaking with their gynecologist, many women assume that uterine fibroids require a hysterectomy," Dr. Rao explains. "But for many, uterine fibroid embolization can treat fibroids that are causing pain, pressure, and heavy bleeding. This often one-hour, minimally invasive outpatient procedure allows patients to go home the same day with improved symptoms."

Constantly expanding its diagnostic imaging capabilities, Synergy Radiology Associates is one of few radiology locations within Houston offering fetal MRI imaging, providing a deeper analysis of the placenta, ovaries, and other organs that can't be detected on an ultrasound to optimize care from birth through childhood and adolescence.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Synergy Radiology Associate's board members Arif Rahman, M.D.; Ram K. Rao, M.D.; Alaina Moore, M.D.; Justin Tholany, M.D.; and Sasi Yallampalli, M.D.

The recent integration of artificial intelligence into the workforce has Dr. Rao particularly excited. "AI is advancing radiology at an extraordinary rate," he says. "Computer-assisted detection improves every year and also gives us the ability to quickly treat the sickest patients. Some life-threatening pathologies like intracranial bleeding or lung collapse that require immediate treatment can now be triaged and managed early, as AI can identify and elevate these cases for prompt evaluation by our radiologists."

The Best Defense

While yearly mammograms are recommended for all women over the age of 40 to detect cancerous cells too small to be felt by patients, advancements in breast imaging allow for earlier detection.

Complex mammography options are available for younger women or those with dense breast tissue who may have a harder time detecting breast cancer. A 3D mammography (also called tomosynthesis) reveals multiple thin slices of imaging through the breast tissue to provide more detailed imaging than a standard 2D mammogram.

"The most important action women have in their control is how and when breast cancer is detected," says Dr. Rao. "Regular screening and detection as early as possible lead to significant improvements in morbidity and mortality rates."

"We're directly engaged in the patient's wellbeing, and we also consult with doctors to collaborate on cases," he continues. "They may never meet their radiologist face-to-face, but we offer comprehensive care to provide best recommendations for treatment as determined through an evidence-based approach from our team of specialists."

