

REGIONAL MEDICAL IMAGING Inside View

Advanced 3-D Imaging Capabilities Bones, Blood Vessels, and Beyond

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It is well known that applying computer-assisted 3-D image processing to the detailed image slices produced by CT and MRI has created a vital resource for noninvasive diagnosis and treatment planning – especially in applications involving vascular and bony structures. Post-processing performed on a separate workstation allows the creation of 3-D color images that can be rotated in space, magnified, or trimmed to optimally demonstrate structures of interest.

What some physicians may be less aware of, however, is the variety of applications beyond bones and blood vessels that are available with the unique expertise of RMI radiologists and technologists to fully utilize advanced 3-D imaging. Examples include evaluations of soft-tissue masses or air-filled tubular structures.

Some of the most common vascular applications involve detailed mapping and measurements of stenosis in the carotid or renal arteries and mapping of intracranial or abdominal aortic aneurysms. Spine imaging is among the major skeletal applications, since 3-D imaging allows superior depiction of fixation hardware and may better demonstrate congenital anomalies.

Beyond blood vessels and bones, lesions narrowing the airway or solid tumors can be analyzed in a 3-D volume-rendered image, which permits detection of subtle changes in size that may be missed with two-dimensional evaluation alone. The detection of anatomic relationships between structures adjacent to or encased by a mass can provide valuable insight in surgical planning.

One important note: although RMI has the technology and expertise readily available for advanced 3-D imaging, it is not a routine part of most CT or MRI examinations. If you feel 3-D imaging may be beneficial in the diagnosis and/or treatment planning for your patient, please be sure to include “3-D reformations” in your imaging orders.

We are always available to consult with referring physicians on the potential value of 3-D imaging for specific patient cases. To arrange a consultation, please call **(810) 732-1919**.

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RMI
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Advanced 3-D Imaging Capabilities

Continued from front cover



Zoomed 3-D reformation from noncontrast MRA of the brain shows an aneurysm (arrow) of the supraclinoid right internal carotid artery.



3-D Volume Rendered CT Image mapping paranasal sinuses, oropharyngeal airway and tracheobronchial tree.



3-D Volume Rendered Reformatted contrast enhanced CT image of the neck showing the thyroid and origins of the innominate and left and right common carotid arteries. A small parathyroid tumor is demonstrated inferior to the right lobe of the thyroid. A nodule is also demonstrated in the inferior left lobe of the thyroid.

Breast Tissue Density Reporting: A Score That Can Save Women's Lives

Across the entire population of female patients over 40, mammography continues to demonstrate its effectiveness as a breast cancer screening tool. It's crucial to understand, however, that mammography isn't equally effective for all patients.

"About 50 percent of women fall into the highest two categories of breast tissue density," said breast imaging specialist Kristin Krizmanich, M.D. "For women in those categories, mammograms could miss half of the cancers—even more in the group with extremely dense breast tissue. But the good news is that additional screening modalities, including whole-breast ultrasound and breast MRI, provide the increased sensitivity needed to supplement mammography and find more tumors in dense breasts."

To help referring physicians decide whether the patient's preventive needs are best served by routinely screening with another modality in addition to a mammogram, RMI now includes a breast density score in each patient's mammography report, using a four-level scale from The American College of Radiology that expresses density in terms of the percentage of fibroglandular vs. fatty tissue:

- **Predominantly fatty** – less than 25 percent fibroglandular tissue density (about 10 percent of women)
- **Scattered density** – 25–50 percent fibroglandular tissue density (about 40 percent of women)
- **Heterogeneously dense** – 50–75 percent fibroglandular tissue density (about 40 percent of women)
- **Extremely dense** – greater than 75 percent fibroglandular tissue density (about 10 percent of women)

Dr. Krizmanich said that, for each patient, RMI now includes the applicable descriptor from these four categories in the body of the mammography report and, in the conclusion, references the patient's density level again as a percentage.

"We hope referring physicians will use the score as a tool to decide whether they should have a conversation with their patient about additional screening options," Dr. Krizmanich said. "If they fall into the first two categories, mammography is probably enough, although if they're in one of the two higher-density categories, it's worthwhile to think about other options."

While health insurance plans are currently varied in their coverage policies for breast MRI and other additional screenings based on breast tissue density, RMI's flexible payment options, including payment plans and cash discounts for self-paying patients, help make additional screenings more accessible.

To discuss your patient's breast density with an RMI breast imaging specialist, please call **(810) 732-1919**.



RMI Welcomes Neuroradiology Specialist

Dr. Dilraj S. Ghumman earned his M.D. (2005) at the Medical University of the Americas, Charlestown, West Indies. After a transitional year (2006–2007) and a residency in diagnostic radiology (2007–2011) at the St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan, where he was Chief Radiology Resident in 2010–2011, Dr. Ghumman completed a fellowship in neuroradiology at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Ghumman looks forward to the opportunity to apply this advanced neuroradiology training and experience to the care of your patients who are presenting with neurological symptoms and concerns.

Satisfied Patients Make RMI an Excellent Choice

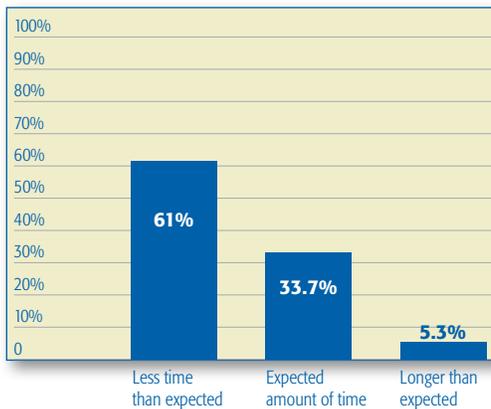
We appreciate the positive feedback from our latest round of patient surveys, the results of which demonstrate a high degree of satisfaction with:

- **Our ability to schedule appointments promptly and at convenient times (98% satisfied)**
- **Interactions with technical staff (98% satisfied) and scheduling staff (96% satisfied)**
- **Length of wait times after arriving for appointments, with most reporting shorter-than-expected waits**

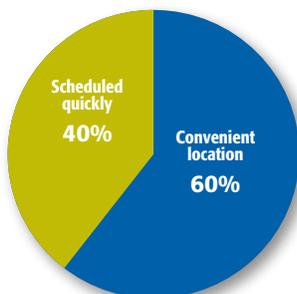
Although we're pleased with these high ratings, our efforts to improve continue. Our goal is for all patients to be 100 percent satisfied with every aspect of their interactions with RMI. So we're making adjustments based on this valuable feedback in the hope of even higher ratings in the next round of surveys.

As always, feedback on our service to referring physicians and their office staff is also welcome. To let us know how we're doing, please call RMI Executive Director, **Rob McColgan** at **(810) 732-5541**.

Satisfaction regarding the amount of time you waited in the waiting room, assuming that you arrived at your scheduled appointment time.



Would it be more important to get scheduled as quickly as possible, or get scheduled at a location that is most convenient for you?



Spotlight on RMI's Davison Office



Mary Graham, Mammography, X-ray, Dexa; Maggie Alexander, Office Manager; Laurie Pitkin, Ultrasound, X-ray, Dexa, and Vascular

What Do Customers Say About Davison?

"Patients frequently compliment the warm, family-like feel of our office. They also tell us our techs are great, and appreciate that we can usually schedule appointments within a day or so of when they call—and the short wait times when they arrive. Referring physician offices value our scheduling flexibility to get their patients in quickly and accommodate stat requests. And RMI's fast turnaround on reports is always a plus."

— Maggie Alexander B.S.H.P, Office Manager

STAFF PROFILES

Maggie Alexander, Office Manager, received her Bachelor of Science in Health Professions degree at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She takes pride in running an efficient office that shows respect for the patient's time and makes the jobs of referring office staff easier, while also maintaining a personable and inviting atmosphere.

Mary Graham, RT, a mammography and X-ray technologist at Davison, has the dual strengths of a welcoming approach with patients and a commitment to excellence and efficiency in her work. When she's not at RMI caring for patients, Mary enjoys spending time with family, including Tony, her husband; Nick and Britteny, her son and daughter; and Harmony, her granddaughter.

Laurie Pitkin, RT, an ultrasound, vascular imaging, and X-ray technologist at Davison, is especially adept at putting patients at ease with her sense of humor and approachable attitude. She is a proud mother to her two children, Amanda and Tyler, and loves to crochet in her spare time.

SERVICES OFFERED

Bone Densitometry (DEXA) ■ Mammography
Ultrasound ■ Vascular Imaging ■ X-Ray

1141 S. State Road, Suite 26
Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

RMI SERVICES AND LOCATIONS

SERVICE	SITE(S) OFFERED*
Bone Densitometry (DEXA)	L F G V D
Breast Specific Gamma Imaging	L
Computed Tomography (CT)	L F G
Cryoablation	L
Digital Mammography	L F G V D
Fluoroscopy	L F
Interventional Radiology	L
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	L
MRI Guided Breast Biopsy	L
Nuclear Medicine	L F G
PET/CT	L
Stereotactic Guided Breast Biopsy	L
Ultrasound	L F G V D
Vascular Imaging	L F G V D
X-Ray	L F G V D
4-D Breast MRI	L

* SITE(S)

L Lennon Road (Flint)	V Villa Linde
F Fenton	D Davison
G Grand Blanc	

LOCATIONS

Flint Office

3346 Lennon Road

Fenton Office

221 W. Roberts Street

Grand Blanc Office

8483 Holly Road

Villa Linde Office

5059 Villa Linde Pkwy • Suite 25

Davison Office

1141 S. State Road • Suite 26

Scheduling: (810) 732-1919

Billing: (810) 244-3871

Medical Records: (810) 732-1846

Pre-Registration: (810) 244-7100

RMI offers evening and weekend appointment times to fit your patient's schedule. We know you have a choice in imaging partners. Thanks for choosing RMI.



rmipc.net

(810) 732-1919

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