



## The vital role of MRI in breast cancer diagnosis

The need for early diagnosis of breast cancer and the limitations of mammography in detecting early-stage cases, particularly in women with breast dense tissue presents an opportunity for MRI practices. Radiologists like Dr. Mayra Maldonado can now use MRI scanners as

essential tools in the detection and evaluation of breast cancer, particularly for women with dense breast tissue. Using BlueSeal technology, Dr. Maldonado enhances patient comfort and imaging reliability to detect cancer earlier and improve patient survival rates.

## Advancing breast cancer diagnosis with breast MRI

Breast MRI has globally emerged as a pivotal tool in diagnosing and evaluating breast cancer. Especially for women with dense breast tissue, which often hides tumors in mammography screenings, MRI can be a more reliable method. According to data from

Oregon Health & Science University, 25 to 45% of breast cancers are not found by mammogram screening<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, a high fraction of 22% of screening-detected cancers are discovered at late stages, either locally advanced or metastatic<sup>2</sup>.



## Vida Imaging's role in breast cancer diagnosis with MRI

Understanding the vital role of MRI in breast cancer diagnosis, Vida Imaging (San Juan de Puerto Rico) has specialized in breast MRI. Dr. Mayra Maldonado, a leading radiologist at the center, has been advocating the incorporation of MRI into the center. She points out that after a cancer diagnosis is confirmed, MRI plays a crucial role

in assessing whether the disease is confined to the area already biopsied or if there are additional areas of concern that require attention before proceeding to oncological or surgical treatments. Although Vida Imaging conducts a wide array of diagnostic studies, breast MRI holds a unique position due to their impact on treating breast cancer.

*"Before going to the oncologist and the surgeon, we use an MRI study to decide what type of treatment will be given."*

Dr. Mayra Maldonado

## The benefits and precision of MRI in breast cancer screening at Vida Imaging

The benefits of using MRI in breast cancer cases are clear: MRI provides detailed information that directly impacts patient management strategies. According to literature, approximately 10% of women can benefit from early cancer detection through MRI screening<sup>3-4</sup>. By integrating biannual MRI screenings, particularly for women at high risk, almost 9 more lives could be saved per 1,000 women screened<sup>3-4</sup>.

Dr. Maldonado believes that including advanced MRI technology in her practice provides substantial benefits for patients, as it provides more diagnostic information to make informed treatment decisions, that ultimately help improve patient outcomes.



## Innovative solutions with BlueSeal MRI system

Vida Imaging leverages its MRI system's BlueSeal technology to enhance the experience for breast MRI patients. This innovative technology provides consistent fat suppression across all patient scans, driving consistent and reliable imaging results. Moreover, BlueSeal technology is designed to extend patient comfort, an aspect that Edilia, a technologist at Vida Imaging, elaborates on.

The Vida Imaging team proactively takes steps to alleviate patient unease and discomfort during an MRI scan. The wide bore of BlueSeal MRI systems from Philips offers patients more space during the scan, helping them feel more comfortable. During the scan, patients can listen to music of their preference, which enhances their comfort and overall experience.

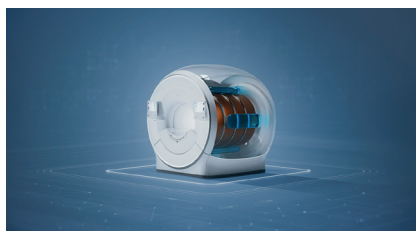
*"Although this study is uncomfortable for patients, we try to make them as comfortable as possible".*

## Impact on breast cancer outcomes

Recent studies suggest that MRI screening for breast cancer has the potential to detect breast cancer early in an approximately 10% of women<sup>3-4</sup>, saving approximate 8.6 lives per thousand women screened<sup>3-4</sup>. These numbers call for a transformative step in the approach to breast cancer diagnosis, highlighting an opportunity for MRI to play a growing role in women's health.

Clinicians like Dr. Maldonado are using innovative technologies like BlueSeal to set new standards in patient care and diagnostic accuracy. When breast MRI becomes more accepted as an integral part of the routine screening and diagnostics, enhanced early detection and effective treatment will offer hope for better patient outcomes and survival rates.

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1. Rojas-Burke J. Oregon Health & Science University 2022.
2. <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast/mammograms-fact-sheet>.
3. Screening for Breast Cancer. US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. JAMA 2024.
4. Monticciolo DL, et al. Updated Recommendations From the ACR. J Am College Radiol 2023.

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