

# What is MBI?

Molecular breast imaging (MBI) is a new FDA cleared technology used for breast imaging as an adjunct to mammography. This new technology is now available at the Scripps Polster Breast Care Center on the Scripps La Jolla campus.

- The MBI identifies tumors in dense breast tissue that are often not visible with X-ray based analog or digital mammography.
- Since MBI technology is not X-ray based, there is no difficulty in obtaining an image in dense breast tissue.
- With MBI, patients are given an injection of a short-lived radioactive agent that accumulates in tumor cells more than in normal cells. The tumors show up as hot spots (white) on the image.

The LumaGEM™ MBI system is the first commercially available, FDA cleared, planar, dual head, fully solid state digital imaging system.

- The dual-head configuration allows for a quicker exam.
- A small amount of short half-lived radioactive trace is injected into the patient and within 10 minutes the scan can begin.
- The breast is imaged in mammography standard positions to allow for easy comparison of the original mammogram with the new image.
- The procedure can be completed in approximately 45 minutes and images are available immediately for the physician's interpretation.
- The exam is considered comfortable because, unlike mammography, LumaGEM™ requires only light, pain-free compression.

The LumaGEM™ MBI system provides an alternative for patients who require further imaging for diagnosis and have the following:

- Claustrophobia
- A pacemaker
- Dense breast tissue

For more information about our breast imaging options for your patient, or to schedule a procedure, please call the Scripps Polster Breast Care Center scheduling office at **858-626-5223**.