

THE AMI INSIDER

A message from Dr. David Levi, CEO

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer amongst women and is the second leading cause of death due to cancer, second only to lung cancer. Approximately 1 in every 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives, and 1 in every 39 women will die due to breast cancer. While these are sobering statistics, early detection of breast cancer using mammography not only reduces the risk of death from breast cancer, but also affords more treatment options. Thankfully, we can work together to try to continue to save lives, through early detection.

Because the incidence of breast cancer increases substantially after the age of 40, the American College of Radiology recommends starting annual screening mammography at 40 and even earlier for women who are considered higher risk. Extensive research demonstrates that annual mammographic screening lowers the risk of death from breast cancer by 40%. The advent of digital breast tomosynthesis, a newer type of mammography available to all our patients at AMI, has lowered this risk even further.

In a few short weeks, we will enter the month of October which is breast cancer awareness month. I am proud of the work we have done at AMI to increase screening awareness and the positive impact it has had on our communities. Our fellowship trained mammographers and 4 designated breast centers of excellence, have made us the leaders in our state for providing the best screening and diagnostic women's imaging services. I am proud that this October, as in previous Octobers, we will be offering free screening mammography to all patients without health insurance that qualify. We are committed to saving lives with screening and we thank you for choosing AMI.



FREE
MAMMOGRAM SCREENINGS IN
OCTOWER
FOR BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

News Update: COVID-19

We're Focused on Your Safety

The health and well-being of our patients and staff continues to be our highest priorities. To best serve our community and minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, we are following the recommendation of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and making temporary changes to our business hours, policies and procedures.

Hours of Operation by Location

All AMI offices are now open with expanded evening and weekend hours at most of our 14 locations. To find a listing of our hours and services by location, see www.atlanticmedicalimaging.com/locations/.

What are we doing to make sure our patients and staff are safe

Screening Guidelines

- If you have a scheduled appointment and are experiencing a fever, new shortness of breath, new cough, flu-like symptoms, sore throat or recent loss of taste or smell, please call 609-568-9182 for further evaluation prior to your appointment.
- If you have no symptoms but have had close contact with someone suspected or known to have Coronavirus over the past 14 days, please contact your healthcare provider prior to scheduling your appointment.
- AMI will not perform procedures on patients known or suspected to have COVID-19.

Temperature Checks

We will perform temperature checks on all patients, visitors and staff entering any of the AMI facilities.

Installation of Sneeze Guards

We have installed sneeze guards at the front desk stations in each office to help maintain social distance and physical separation during the registration process.

Face covering or mask to protect yourself and others

Please be aware that our staff will be wearing masks and we ask that you wear a face covering or mask as well. If you do not have a face covering or mask, we will provide one to you.

Enhanced cleaning processes

Extra time and care is being taken between patients to ensure the cleanliness of all equipment and frequently touched surfaces. We are cleaning all surfaces and equipment with an EPA approved disinfectant.

Hand hygiene protocol

Our staff continues to adhere to our hand hygiene protocol. We encourage you to wash/sanitize your hands before and after checking into your appointment. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available throughout all offices.

Flexible waiting room options

We encourage you to practice social distancing, when possible. Patients have the option to check in at the front desk and then wait in their vehicle to be contacted when it's time for their appointment. We have removed chairs at some locations to minimize overcrowding.

Visitor Policy

We ask all visitors accompanying patients to wait in their vehicle. If a visitor needs to accompany you into the office, there will be a limit of one visitor.

Patient Ambassador Program

This is How AMI Helped Me

Stress of the holiday rush can be tough on anyone. But needing to try and fit in a biopsy before Christmas and traveling out of state, was an added challenge for Marie.

The Friday before Christmas 2019 Marie, 55, had her scheduled mammogram. She was then informed she needed to get a biopsy “right away.”

Her normal Atlantic Medical Imaging office in Brick did not have any openings before the new year but working with staff and schedulers Marie was able to be scheduled in the Somers Point office for that Monday, Dec. 23.



Sharon, the Breast Imaging Patient Navigator in Somers Point, worked with Marie to make this appointment happen.

Marie took the opportunity of the last-minute slot, even if the office is located an hour away from her home.

“They were all wonderful at that office,” she said. “They really went above and beyond to get me in.”

Marie is not a stranger to the healthcare field either. Prior to starting her online business, the mother of two taught medical assisting for 22 years. She is also a lab and x-ray technician.

“I have an idea in my mind based on (my teaching experience) as far as what to expect,” Marie said. “When I go out there, I have a high expectation for professionalism.”

AMI passed her test.

The Monday of her biopsy she said she was in and out of the Somers Point office, “smooth sailing.”

When the results came in, Marie said the staff was very supportive and informed her she would need to have a lumpectomy.

“They have the knowledge to help you through as much as possible,” she said.

With the help of AMI staff, she was able to get all her records, CDs and everything she would need to make her trip to Florida and have the lumpectomy there.

“They were very good with the transition,” she said.

“If you have to go through something like that, at least you have the confidence that the people you are working with are extremely professional and extremely caring,” Marie said.

Marie thanked Sharon and the Somers Point staff with a card and coconut custard pie for all the help and great care she received.

“They were very caring. The experience was very positive,” she said.

www.atlanticmedicalimaging.com/patient-perspective and our program coordinator will reach out to you soon.



What's New at AMI

Are You At Risk For PAD?

The Vascular Institute at AMI provides an extensive range of services ranging from screenings for vascular conditions to interventional oncology. Our team of endovascular specialists have over 70 years of combined experience in their field and utilize cutting-edge technology to provide our patients with efficient, effective treatment. We offer minimally invasive treatment alternatives for conditions that would traditionally require surgery; this means that patients will experience less pain, less risk, and less time recovering.

In recognition of National Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month, the Vascular Institute will offer PAD screenings during the month of September for individuals that may be at risk. PAD is a common condition affecting up to 20 percent of Americans age 65 and older.

People with Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) are at increased risk for heart disease, aortic aneurysms and stroke. PAD is also a marker for diabetes, hypertension and other conditions.

PAD develops most commonly as a result of cholesterol and scar tissue build up, forming a substance called plaque inside the arteries. The clogged arteries cause decreased blood flow to the legs, which can result in pain when walking and may eventually cause gangrene, ultimately leading to an amputation.

The most common test for PAD is the ankle-brachial index (ABI), a painless exam in which ultrasound is used to measure the ratio of blood pressure in the feet and arms. Based on the result of an ABI as well as one's symptoms and risk factors for PAD, the doctor can decide whether further tests are needed.

Know your risks for PAD:

- Are you 50 years or older?
- Are you a smoker?
- Do you have family members with the disease?
- Have you been diagnosed with diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure?
- Do you have kidney disease?
- Do you have aching leg pain, leg fatigue or leg heaviness?

The most detectable symptom of PAD is cramping that typically occurs in the legs or hips and is often experienced when engaged in a physical activity such as exercising, or even simply walking. Additionally, you may feel numbness, tingling, or weakness in your legs or feet.

By saving limbs through increased awareness and access to care, we can also save countless lives.

To reach our Vascular Institute, please call: 609-652-6094 in Atlantic and Cape May Counties; 732-206-8455 in Ocean and Monmouth Counties; 856-362-6056 in Cumberland County.

