

Baptist Health to open Breast Center

Although abnormal mammogram findings are not always breast cancer, this does not help lessen the anxiety of thousands of women facing the possibility of a life-changing diagnosis. And for the nearly one in eight women who develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime, access to expert, comprehensive and compassionate care becomes a number one priority.

The new Baptist Health Breast Center — which will open this spring — will be located on the first floor of the South Miami Hospital Medical Arts Building. It will serve as a centralized resource for patients with a suspected or confirmed breast cancer diagnosis. The



Breast surgeons Gladys Giron, M.D., and Robert DerHagopian, M.D., focus on their patients' emotional well-being.

Breast Center will feature highly skilled breast surgeons, radiologists specializing in breast health and state-of-the-art diagnostic technology under one roof. Diagnostic services include breast MRI, core biopsy and breast positron emission tomography (PET).

“The expert physicians and technology are in place, but we also felt it was critically important to offer patients and families an ally — someone who could help guide them through the journey,” said Denise Harris, R.N., vice president and chief nursing officer of Baptist Outpatient Services. “That’s where the patient navigator comes in — to serve as a point of contact and centralized resource.”

The patient navigator, or patient care coordinator, will be available to help guide patients and families after a breast cancer diagnosis. Functions include appointment scheduling and connecting patients with support services such as social work, mental health counseling, physical therapy and other services.

“Most people think women are worried about what will happen during the course of treatment, but in reality, they are most worried about how breast cancer is going to affect their families,” said breast surgeon Robert DerHagopian, M.D. “You have to plan the best treatment for the cancer, but you can’t forget about the patient’s emotional well-being. It helps to have an added layer of support.”

Randy Schenkman, M.D., a retired Baptist Health radiologist, shared her vision with others and helped lay the groundwork for the Breast Center’s development. “It was Dr. Schenkman’s dream to have a place where women can receive the highest level of care while finding solace through the compassion of our team,” said Patricia Rosello, CEO of Baptist Outpatient Services. “If we can lessen someone’s anxiety by providing faster, more convenient access to expert care, we will have reached an important goal.”

For information about how you can support the Baptist Health Breast Center, call the Baptist Health Foundation, 786-662-8126.

—Amanda Gonzalez

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Fibroid Embolization: An Alternative to Hysterectomy

WHAT: A free presentation by interventional radiologist James Benenati, M.D.

WHEN: Wednesday, **March 25, 7-8 p.m.**

WHERE: Women’s Health Resource Center, 8950 North Kendall Drive, Baptist Medical Arts Building, West Tower, Suite 105.

Space is limited, and reservations are required. Please call **786-596-3812**.