

THE AMI INSIDER

A message from Dr. David Levi, CEO

Prostate cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer amongst men, affecting 1 in 9 at some point in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2020, there will be approximately 191,000 new cases of prostate cancer, and more than 33,000 deaths from prostate cancer. Most prostate cancers are found after screening with a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test or a digital rectal exam, but imaging is also playing an increasing role in both the detection of prostate cancer and helping to guide its treatment.

In order to diagnose prostate cancer, biopsies of the prostate must be performed. So how can magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) help? An MRI can help guide the urologist to areas in the prostate that either would not normally be biopsied, or that may be suspicious for higher grade (more aggressive) cancers. By doing an MRI before a biopsy, or in a repeat biopsy when cancer is still suspected but was not found initially, your urologist will have the highest likelihood of finding prostate cancer if it is present.

Imaging also plays an important role in finding possible recurrent prostate cancer in patients who have already been treated. A positron emission tomography (PET) computed tomography (CT) with a new agent called Axumin, can help detect tiny recurrences of prostate cancer in patients who have either already had their prostate removed, or who have had radiation therapy.

We at AMI are here to help in the fight against this deadly disease. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions about how we can help you in the fight against prostate cancer.



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

Providing Quality Care That Exceeds Our Patient Expectations

At AMI, our mission is to provide innovative service and compassionate care that exceeds expectations. We have always been able to do this for our communities, through hard work, teamwork and thinking outside of the box.

It's that exceptional care and teamwork that keeps Catherine coming back to AMI!

Catherine was first introduced to AMI by her primary care doctor and has been using our services for the last 15 years. She said she never felt rushed during her appointments and appreciates the knowledgeable staff at every level from the receptionist to the physician.

Catherine was diagnosed with Hashimoto's thyroiditis and has many thyroid nodules that must be continuously monitored. She has annual ultrasounds at AMI, sometimes followed by biopsies to ensure the nodules are benign.

During one of Catherine's visits, she recalled her experience with Dr. Michael Schmidling one of the interventional radiologists at AMI. Dr. Schmidling and his team left a positive impact on her. "I need to have multiple biopsies for thyroid nodules and Dr. Schmidling's experience and gentle approach makes a painful experience much less stressful," said Catherine.

After having a similar procedure elsewhere left her with an unpleasant experience, she knew she could turn to AMI for the care she needs. "The care of Dr. Schmidling makes it tolerable to have recurring thyroid biopsies, thereby allowing me to avoid surgery to remove it," she said.

Catherine also praised the AMI staff and their ability to put a patient at ease during a sometimes painful and stressful procedure.

"Because Dr. Schmidling is so caring, skilled, patient and gentle while performing my thyroid biopsies I'm able to monitor my condition with much less stress and pain. I honestly think that if Dr. Schmidling wasn't a part of my care team I would've had my thyroid removed to avoid the potentially painful biopsy monitoring," she said.

Catherine says she has a good quality of life, continues to work full time and is in overall good health.



What's New at AMI

Early Detection Is One Of The Best Weapons In The Fight Against Breast Cancer

Breast cancer kills 40,000 women each year in the United States. Early detection is the key to fighting it successfully. Because screening mammography is so important in identifying breast cancer at the earliest, most treatable stages, it is vital that women choose a breast imaging center with the highest level of clinical expertise and access to advanced screening and diagnostic technologies.

Research shows that where you get your mammogram makes a difference and that your mammogram is only as good as the radiologist who reads it. AMI's team of breast imaging specialists are dedicated to providing the most accurate and timely diagnostics, in a comfortable and relaxing environment. Our breast imaging specialists are all fellowship trained and understand the spectrum of breast imaging, from routine mammograms to breast biopsies. Each year, our team of breast imaging specialists read over 50,000 mammograms and perform over 1,000 minimally invasive breast biopsies.

Atlantic Medical Imaging currently has 12 breast imaging locations, including a mobile breast center – all accredited by the American College of Radiology and certified by the FDA. In addition, our centers are recognized as Breast Imaging Centers of Excellence by the American College of Radiology.

Don't Put Off Your Screening Mammogram

The risk of breast cancer increases as women age. The American College of Radiology and the Society of Breast Imaging recommends routine screening mammography should begin at age 40. Some physicians advocate screening beginning at a younger age for women with certain risk factors. Screening should continue throughout a woman's lifetime. Once is not enough.

The goal of screening exams is to find cancers before they start to spread and cause symptoms. Breast cancers found early during screening exams are far more likely to be smaller and contained, greatly improving the chances of successful treatment.

"We all know that annual mammograms are vitally important," said Dr. Peggy Avagliano, head of women's imaging at AMI. "We don't believe any woman should have to forgo important health care screenings due to lack of insurance."

Throughout the month of October, AMI is offering free screening mammograms to women 40 and older with no current or past breast issues. The free screening program is funded through the AMI Foundation.

Atlantic Medical Imaging offers a full range of breast imaging services from 3D Digital Mammography to breast biopsies. Our 12 breast imaging centers are located in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Monmouth and Ocean Counties, with convenient evening and weekend appointments available.

To schedule your screening mammogram appointment online visit, <https://ami.opendr.com/> or call (609) 677-9729.

