



By: Karen Castoral

*D*o you have a general impression of radiologists? Or do you really have no idea where radiologists fit into the healthcare needs of you and your family? Some think of radiologists as physicians who choose to stay away from people by putting themselves in a dark room all day reading images all alone. Instead of allowing you to think a radiologist may be the last person you'd want to sit beside at a dinner party or reception, I want to turn the light on and give you a closer look at why you should hug a radiologist today!

Having the ability to see anatomical changes in the body without invasive procedures is a major improvement for modern healthcare. Radiologists work closely with the primary care and specialist physicians that refer patients for imaging services to confirm, rule out or make a diagnosis. They often need to view images in a dark room, but this room is not a vacuum—radiologists also examine patients, discuss findings and perform treatment with radiological procedures. An important part of this process is the information exchange between the patient and the radiologist, so please speak up! Also understand that the radiologist is available to

you to discuss the findings of your study and that he or she may suggest additional studies based on findings.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, BUT BREAST CANCER AWARENESS IS IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN EVERY DAY.



DR. NICOLE ABINANTI

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, but breast cancer awareness is important for women every day. Dr. Nicole Abinanti is a radiologist with Mecklenburg Radiology Associates who primarily sees patients at the Presbyterian Breast Center in Charlotte (one of 10 breast imaging centers with Presbyterian Hospital). Dr. Abinanti is fellowship trained in women's imaging, which means she is especially expert in mammography and MRI interpretation. She is passionate about finding breast cancers in the earliest stages, which often means performing biopsies on the tiniest areas that sometimes turn out to be cancers, but are often easily curable at that stage. Mary Keefe, RN and breast health navigator, and Kay Lackey, RN, work closely with Dr. Abinanti and support

the patients who have been diagnosed with breast cancer throughout their treatment process. When patients come for a diagnostic

mammogram, they have an appointment with Dr. Abinanti, who discusses her interpretation of the mammograms and may perform an ultrasound herself. And adds Mary, "Patients should feel free to discuss their concerns with her as she is very kind and compassionate as well!"

You may or may not personally meet with your radiologist when having studies such as an X-ray, CT or MRI performed. Still, always know they are physicians who are available to you to help keep you and your family healthy. Fortunately, they most often report that the screening test is normal; but when it is not, they are a valuable resource! So go ahead and hug a radiologist today! 🌊



Karen Castoral is a marketing manager for North Carolina Diagnostic Imaging, which has 15 centers in North Carolina. For more information contact her at 704-662-8580.