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North Alabama
M E D I C A L C E N T E R

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North Alabama Cancer Center turns breast cancer upside down

FLORENCE, AL - North Alabama Cancer Center at North Alabama Medical Center now provides an innovative technique for treating breast cancer called Prone Breast Radiation Therapy. This technique positions the patient in a prone, or face down, position during treatment, that reduces the radiation exposure the heart and lung, while maximizing the dose to the cancer in the breast.

North Alabama Cancer Center is the only radiation therapy center in north Alabama to offer prone breast radiation therapy.

Prone breast radiation therapy is a unique approach to treating breast cancer. Radiation is administered on a specially designed breast board to help a woman lie comfortably in the prone position – typically on the stomach, with the breast hanging away from the body.

In this position, radiation beams can be delivered within a few millimeters of precision, allowing the physician to protect surrounding tissue and nearby organs like the heart and lungs. This lowers the risks for immediate side effects and for future complications like heart disease.

The amount of radiation delivered in the prone position is the same as standard supine treatments. The patient is simply in a different position, avoiding radiation exposure to major internal organs. Most studies show that when comparing radiation treatments in the prone position versus supine position, there is lower radiation exposure to both the lungs and heart.

“The heart is especially vulnerable to damage when the left breast is treated,” said Dr. Vic, Radiation Oncologist at North Alabama Cancer Center at NAMC.

“Placing patients in the prone position allows us to limit radiation exposure to the heart and other vital organs. We are so excited to be the first to offer this treatment to the North Alabama community.”

North Alabama Cancer Center at NAMC is equipped with a skilled team trained in this innovative technique, continuing the tradition of offering patients in the Shoals community the full range of advanced care and treatment options.

About North Alabama Medical Center

North Alabama Medical Center opened its doors in 2018, as the replacement facility for Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, in Florence, Alabama. North Alabama Medical Center serves as a regional facility with more than 200 physicians on staff who represent more than 42 specialty areas of medicine.

The 263-bed facility offers the community's only open-heart surgery site, a complete line of women's and children's services and a complete line of medical and imaging services.

About LifePoint Health

LifePoint Health is a leading healthcare company dedicated to Making Communities Healthier®. Through its subsidiaries, it provides quality inpatient, outpatient and post-acute services close to home. LifePoint owns and operates community hospitals, regional health systems, physician practices, outpatient centers and post-acute facilities across the country. It is the sole community healthcare provider in the majority of the non-urban communities it serves. More information about the company can be found at www.LifePointHealth.net.