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## **St. Luke's Introduces Digital Mammography** **New mammography technology comes to the Magic Valley**

**Twin Falls, ID (November 3, 2008)** – Beginning November 5, women who undergo routine mammograms at St. Luke's Magic Valley Women's Imaging Center will have the latest screening technology available to them – digital mammography.

Digital mammography is different from conventional mammography in how the image of the breast is viewed and, more importantly, manipulated to see a sharper image. A radiologist can magnify the images, increase or decrease the contrast and invert the black and white values while reading the images. These features allow the radiologist to evaluate microcalcifications – small concentrations of calcium in the breast, which are an early sign of possible cancerous growth – and focus on areas of concern.

Although digital mammography feels identical to conventional screening from the patient's perspective, women may notice a shorter exam time and reduction of callbacks to obtain additional images. Digital mammography is especially beneficial for improving early detection rates in women in the 40 – 49 year-old age range, and for patients of any age with dense breast tissue. And as compared to the conventional analog technology, there is a 30 percent reduction in the exposure time required per mammogram.

Demand for the digital mammography is high, and women are excited and pleased that St. Luke's Magic Valley offers this new technology. To celebrate, the public is invited to an open house on Wednesday, November 19, from 5 – 7 p.m. at the St. Luke's Women's Imaging Center, in the Renaissance Office Park (730 North College Road, Naples Building, Suites A). Light refreshments will be served. For more information about digital mammography at St. Luke's Magic Valley, or to schedule an appointment, call 933-4020.

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