



Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

Implementation of Advanced Technology to Maintain Exceptional Regional Breast Services

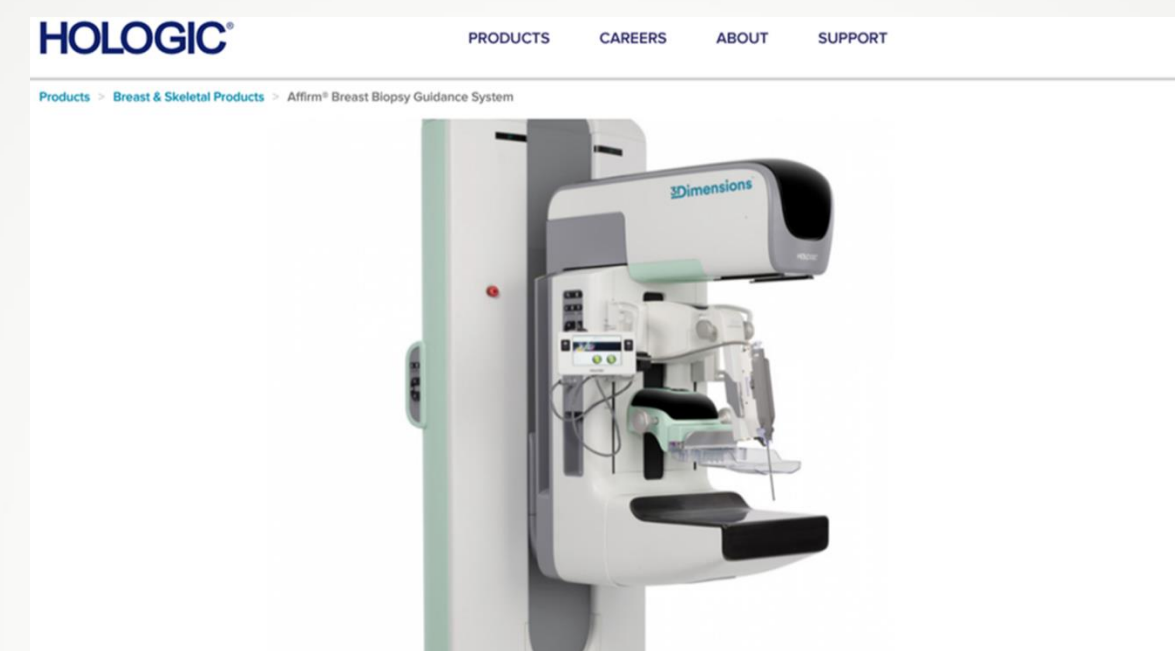
A Performance Improvement Project at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital

PROBLEM STATEMENT/PURPOSE

BMH has long contracted with an outside vendor to perform Stereotactic Breast Biopsies (SBB). This service abruptly ended in January 2019. At this time, Radiology partnered with Brattleboro General Surgery (BGS) and developed a proposal to purchase the Hologic Affirm biopsy device to use with our existing 3D mammography unit. With the vendor, BMH groups generally did not interact during the procedures. The new equipment presented the challenge of developing, testing and refining workflows.

METHODOLOGY/INTERVENTIONS

- Team trained on the Affirm system by Hologic in March 2019
- First stereotactic biopsy performed in July 2019.
 - Protocols developed initially and subsequently refined over time.
 - Testing and quality control measures implemented, as well as Dimensions 3D QC/QA procedures.
 - Roles have continued to be refined throughout the process, with a core group from both mammography and BGS completing the majority of SBB procedures.
 - As of December 2020, the team has completed 25 SBB procedures in-house using the Affirm system.



TEAM MEMBERS

Radiology

- Belinda Sargent
- Chelsea Baker
- Susan Gautot
- Nancy Bonello
- Dr. Ed Elliott
- Dr. Mariusz Paluch
- Todd Fahey

Brattleboro General Surgery

- Laura Devinentis
- Dr. Stephen Fox
- Dr. Greg Gadowski

Oncology

- Karen Grinold

RESULTS

The stereotactic Biopsy team has been consistently improving the exam process and the time it takes to complete the average biopsy.

Go-live

- Procedure time: >90'

Post Intervention/current

- Procedure time: ~60'

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The process of standing up a new program utilized the PDCA (Plan Do Check Act) architecture. It was a learning exercise for staff whom were more accustomed to working in more of an intradepartmental vs. interdepartmental fashion. This also illustrated the importance of taking the time to do mock procedures and practice. Paradoxically, the shutting down of most screening services in the spring of 2020 allowed a multi-month span for staff to practice and increase their proficiency.