

Can CESM Help Streamline Breast Imaging Now in the Time of COVID and Perhaps Forever?

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The world has turned upside down and each of us is affected in different ways. For those of us in breast imaging, it has been necessary to prioritize patients in a way we have not done before. First, routine exams were postponed all together so we could use limited resources to care for the severely ill. Then, when we had the capability to catch up and see those patients, we needed to do so safely and efficiently, as the proximity of performing various breast imaging techniques exposes patients, breast imaging technologists and radiologist to infection. CESM can potentially enable us to streamline our screening and diagnostic work by a “one stop shop” approach: combining anatomic and vascular imaging in a single appointment. Today’s talk will explore the possibilities.

Contrast Enhanced Spectral Mammography (CESM) in the time of COVID-19

Dr. Anat Kornecki, MD

During the COVID-19 pandemic, nosocomial infections may be an important mechanism of infection. Breast imaging requires very close contact with patients and there is no option of physical distancing when performing a mammogram or breast ultrasound. Balancing the need to avoid delays in diagnosis of breast cancer while using safe practices, requires careful attention to the length of the visit and number of visits at the department of breast imaging. The collateral damage of delaying diagnosis of breast cancer due to COVID-19 should be avoided when possible.

Contrast-enhanced mammography (CESM) is a growing technique for breast cancer detection and diagnosis, that uses contrast enhanced recombined images for assessment of tumor angiogenesis, similar to MRI. This presentation will highlight the potential use of CESM in reaching rapid diagnosis in the time of COVID-19.