

health care

Rapid feedback sees to heart of patient anxiety

By **GENE STOWE**

Tribune Correspondent

XRC Medical Imaging offers a wide range of radiological services, including state-of-the-art digital mammograms, in a convenient location that makes the work easy for patients.

"We provide pretty much anything an outpatient radiology center would provide," says medical director Vu Nguyen, who came in 2005 to the company that started about eight years ago.

The practice in the Foundation Center at Douglas Road and Indiana 23 offers X-rays, CT scans, PET scans and other services and has an interest in a

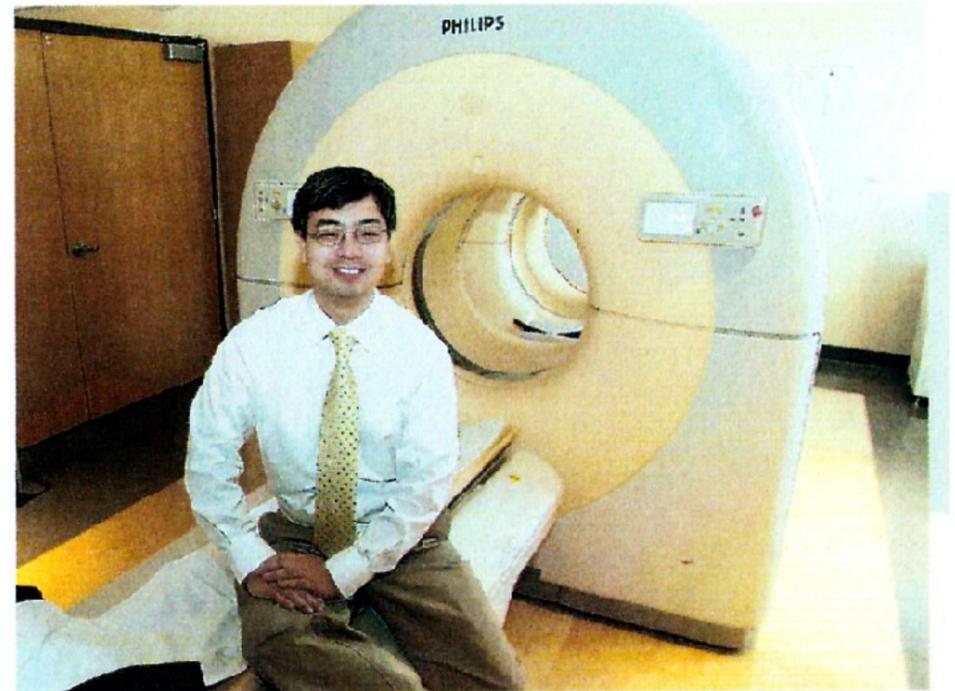
nearby MRI provider.

"We also provide bone density scanning for osteoporosis," says Nguyen. "The newest technology we have is digital mammography. That's shown to be better for dense breasts."

The firm added PET scanning technology less than three years ago.

"It's looking at the function of the cells and how active they are," he says.

The company recently committed itself to a rapid results program offering feedback directly to patients regarding their imaging tests within 24 hours of their appointments, if not before they leave their appointments.



Tribune Photo/JIM RIDER

Dr. Vu Nguyen is medical director at XRC Medical Imaging in South Bend. He says, "We understand the anxiety and stress that often go along with waiting for test results."

Tests in the rapid results program include diagnostic mammograms, general X-rays and bone density

tests, and CT and ultrasound scans.

"We understand the

For more

For information, contact XRC Medical Imaging, 53940 Carmichael Drive, South Bend; (574) 243-0100; or visit www.xrcmi.com.

anxiety and stress that often go along with waiting for test results," Nguyen says. "We reviewed our current testing procedures and found a way to get results back to patients and their doctors within hours for most tests."

XRC Medical Imaging

has up to 18 employees, including 12 or 13 on site.

The parent company, XRC, includes the Legacy Vein Clinic and the imaging center, a joint venture with Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center.

While recent media reports have questioned the value of frequent mammograms for women between 40 and 50, Nguyen says XRC Medical Imaging remains committed to the long-standing recommendation of yearly mammograms after 40.

"That discussion's been going on for years," he says. "It goes in cycles."

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"We still think mammograms, especially with monthly breast exams by the patient, is still the best way to go.

"The argument isn't whether there's a cancer there. They wonder whether the cancer will make a difference. Right now, there's no way to tell between the two. You've got to find it first, which is a mammogram. What kind of treatment they're going to do might change. Mammogram is still the best way to find these cancers."

Thanks to such promotions as Breast Cancer Awareness Week, he says, "that's probably our most numerous procedure."