

COMMUNICATION AND BREAST IMAGING

by: **Steven J. Zweig, M.D.**

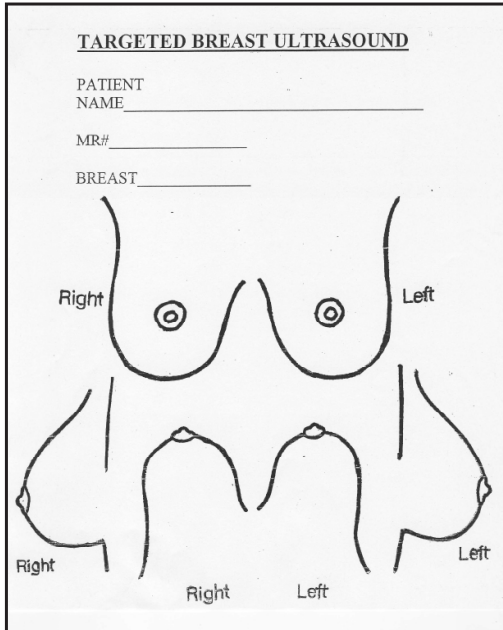
Director Of Breast Imaging, Alpena Radiology, P.C.
Diplomate American Board Of Radiology
Member, Society Of Breast Imaging
Alpena Regional Medical Center
1501 West Chisholm, Alpena, MI 49707
tel: (989) 356-7503 email: szeeman49@charter.net

TARGETED BREAST ULTRASOUND

PATIENT NAME _____

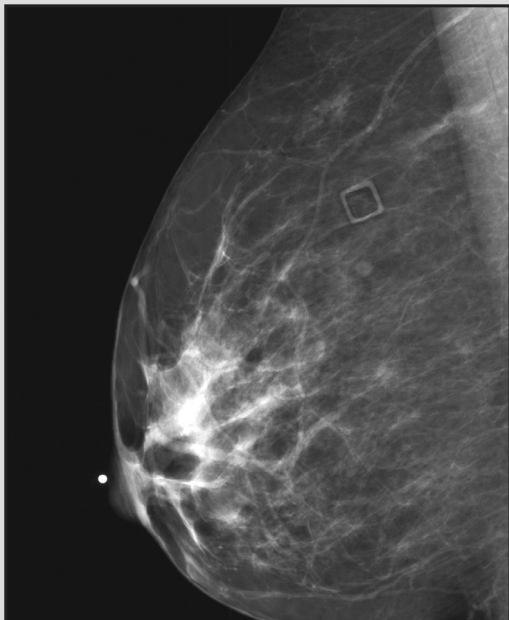
MR# _____

BREAST _____



Breast Diagram for Ultrasound

The accurate communication between patient, technologist and radiologist is imperative in providing high quality diagnostic breast imaging. In our busy general practice, this is sometimes difficult due to time and personnel restraints. Any help in this communication is essential in our practice. Towards that end, I have constructed the enclosed diagram to help our sonographers locate an “area of interest” transmitted by the patient to the mammographer. I use this diagram when a patient has had an MRI or diagnostic mammogram and subsequently needs an ultrasound. It has been helpful for the sonographer who at times is trying to find a needle in a haystack. All our radiologists then self scan and speak with the patient about the findings.



Altus (square shape) for marking area of concern or pain

Another tool I find extremely useful is the Beekley Medical® Altus® “region of concern marker.” When this is placed on the breast prior to a mammogram, it helps the interpreting radiologist key in on a specific area of the breast. This is particularly helpful when the patient’s complaint is vague, nonspecific or nonpalpable.

As an added use, I have the mammographer leave the Altus marker on the breast if the patient is having an ultrasound immediately after her mammogram. In this way, the sonographer is better able to identify the area of concern and the interpreting radiologist can then more accurately scan the area. We always discuss the mammographic and sonographic findings with the patient, especially if a biopsy will be requested.

With use of these tools, the communication from patient to technologist to radiologist makes a full circle back to the patient and our women seem to greatly appreciate the care and concern.