

Sentinelle expands line and channel

... and increases relevance as well

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Toronto-based Sentinelle Medical Inc. has introduced new breast coils and visualization software, and has entered into an OEM distribution agreement with Toshiba. Technologies from companies like Sentinelle are contributing to the ongoing debate about the efficacy of screening, detection and treatment for breast cancer.

Studies assume that the use of MRIs is a neutral phenomenon, and therefore useful or not, but as this technology becomes more sophisticated, it also potentially adds to the debate about the viability of screening, as well as post-operative diagnosis of lumpectomies and mastectomies.

Sentinelle describes its technology as “developed by clinicians for clinicians and has evolved over 10 years and more than 10,000 patient trials.” The company’s products come out of diagnostic imaging research initially conducted at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and the University of Toronto Medical Biophysics department, and continuing over the past three years at Sentinelle. It develops products for both the GE Healthcare and Siemens MRI systems.

The company introduced several new coils and its next generation of breast visualization and interventional planning software at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) annual meeting in Chicago, Nov. 30 - Dec. 5, 2008. It also announced an OEM distribution agreement for the Vanguard T-Series coil with Toshiba America Medical Systems.

Sentinelle's current line of Vanguard 1.5T imaging coils now includes 1.5T 16 channel coils, 1.5T Mastectomy coils and 3T 8 channel coils. These offerings are available for the Vanguard G-Series Table for Signa HDx and HDi MRI systems. The 1.5T mastectomy coil improves image quality across a wider range of breast sizes and accommodates imaging patients who have undergone lumpectomy or mastectomy.

Once a patient's breast is partially or completely removed, it is extremely difficult for a radiologist to check for local recurrence with MRI. The 1.5T mastectomy coil provides radiologists and technologists with the ability to image this tissue clearly.

Sentinelle has also extended its offerings on the Siemens platform. The current offerings include the Vanguard S-Series coil for imaging and biopsy on the 1.5T Magnetom Espree, Magnetom Avanto and Magnetom Symphony, A Tim System MRIs. Siemens introduced the Magnetom Espree - Pink at RSNA. This dedicated breast MRI solution has been integrated with the Sentinelle Vanguard S-Series 1.5T 8 channel coil for a seamless system.