



Expanding Sky Ridge Breast Program Aimed at Easing Patient Journey

Specialized physician experts embrace a team approach to produce more options and better results for their patients.

Breast cancer patients, already reeling from a life-altering blow, must maneuver through a myriad of specialist visits. Radiologists. Surgeons. Oncologists. Often, the appointments are days apart, the offices miles away, and patients find themselves shuffling here and there and managing their care largely on their own.

And that's all before treatment even starts.

To ease their way and improve their breast-cancer journey, Sky Ridge Medical Center will soon launch a comprehensive Breast Cancer Care Program that will bring all specialists involved in every aspect of breast cancer care under one roof, offering a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment.

"This new approach will make it easier for patients and be much more reassuring for them," says Dr. Joyce Moore, a respected breast cancer surgeon and member of the expanding Sky Ridge program. "A breast cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming," she says. Now patients will have a navigation system to guide them through the complicated process, with all of the resources available to them in one place. "It will be like one-stop shopping."

Used at such renowned medical centers as Johns Hopkins and the Mayo Clinic, the breast cancer team approach results in more options for a patient and better outcomes, with all the experts conferring on the best treatment plan. The approach has



Romita Wadwa, a breast cancer survivor, is fitted for a wig in the American Cancer Society's Cancer Resource Center at the Sky Ridge Cancer Center. The Resource Center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily to provide support, resources and access to information for cancer patients in the community.

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been used successfully in other areas, from diabetes to other cancers, and is an increasing medical trend.

State-of-the-art technology, top physicians and innovative research and clinical trials will help set the Sky Ridge program apart. "We all do research, and that's an important part of trying to move a breast cancer center forward," Dr. Moore says. "We do oncology and chemotherapy trials, and this just brings all those components together."

Drs. Chris Williams and Jeremy Williams, partners at Park Meadows Cosmetic Surgery but no relation and part of the Sky Ridge team, say physician communication and patient education will result in better patient care. "There's no question that knowing the plans of the oncologist helps us plan the best reconstructive surgery," says Dr. Jeremy Williams, who, with his partner, offers a unique and

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specialized reconstructive treatment option to Colorado patients called DIEP. “And we’re just one small cog in this larger machine,” he says.

The DIEP procedure uses tissue and blood vessels from the abdomen, like the more common TRAM reconstructive breast surgery, but no abdominal muscles, retaining core strength for patients. With only about 70 surgeons trained in the procedure in the country, and even fewer who work together as a team, Sky Ridge is one of few places where bilateral DIEP reconstruction is routinely performed. “I can’t tell you the number of patients we see on a regular basis who say I wish I had known about this procedure before,” Dr. Chris Williams says.

Patients won’t only have more information at their fingertips, but they will have the resources right there, Dr. Moore says. “Oftentimes, for instance, a patient will say: I want to see a physical therapist now.” Before, Dr. Moore could only hand her a referral and send her down the road. “Now I can say: Well, let’s just walk you down the hall and arrange a time. It works for the patient to have these things centralized, and it’s good for the doctor, too,” she says. “Because when your patients do well, life is good.”

Schedule a Mammogram Today

1 in 8 women in America will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. Early detection through mammography is the best way to find cancer early, when it is more easily treated.

Sky Ridge offers mammograms through its imaging partner Invision Sally Jobe at two south Denver locations.

720-493-3700

Invision Sally Jobe at Lincoln Medical Center

1 mile east of Sky Ridge off of Lincoln Ave
11960 Lioness Way, Ste 100, Parker

Invision Sally Jobe at Castle Rock

1175 S Perry St, Castle Rock



Heedful Daughter Helps Save Mother

Knowing the warning signs and symptoms of heart disease can save you or a loved one.

Shirley Fowler, 77, was feeling nauseous, weak and tired, and she and her daughter thought she had a touch of the flu. But she was not getting better after about a week. Concerned, her daughter Mary brought her to the Emergency Department at Sky Ridge Medical Center on a Saturday evening. That is how Shirley became the 5000th cath lab patient at Sky Ridge Medical Center.

Dr. Michael Wahl and the Cath Lab Team at Sky Ridge jumped into action when they visited with Shirley, whose heart rate was 150. Shirley had a 95% blockage of her artery and Dr. Wahl immediately placed a stent in her. Although Shirley did suffer a mild heart attack, it could have been much worse. Thanks to Mary’s insistence that Shirley go to the Emergency Department, her daughter helped save her life.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women, and often women present symptoms that are much different from men’s. If something doesn’t just feel right, call 9-1-1 immediately. We want to keep Shirley – and the many other women who may be affected by heart disease – here for many more years to come.



Back row (from left to right): Jeff Tyer, Ken Miller, Raul Gonzales, Andrew Beiswanger **Middle row:** Kelly Hebel, Mary, Shirley’s daughter, Kris (K2) Brown, DJ Sasso. **Front row:** Mike Wahl MD, Shirley Fowler, Doug Sikes