

Northwest Orthopaedics Celebrates 5 years of Bone Densitometry Services

Osteoporosis is a common bone disease characterized by reduced bone mass and disruption of skeletal micro architecture with a consequent increased risk of fragility fractures. It is estimated that over 10 million Americans currently have osteoporosis and that more than 20 million others have reduced bone mineral density and are at risk of developing the disease.

In the fall of 2000, Northwest Orthopaedics installed a Hologic QDR 4500C dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scanner to accommodate referrals for bone mineral density assessments. Referred patients undergo scanning of the hip and spine. In patients with a history of bilateral hip replacement surgeries, spinal surgeries, degenerative changes of the spine, or other conditions preventing accurate assessment of axial bone mineral density, wrist densitometry is performed as well. DXA scanning allows for the identification of patients with osteoporosis so that treatment to reduce fracture risk may be initiated. DXA scanning also allows for the identification of individuals at risk of developing osteoporosis so that preventive measures may be instituted.

Northwest Orthopaedics' DXA technicians, Melody Samsell and Lori Woodall, are state-licensed X-Ray technicians, who have been trained and certified by the International Society of Clinical Densitometry (ISCD). DXA scans are interpreted by Dr. Katherine Perry, a board certified internist and rheumatologist, and a member of the ISCD and the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research. A report summarizing scan findings is provided to the referring medical practitioner.

For more information regarding Northwest Orthopaedics' Bone Densitometry services, or to request referral pads, please contact us at (509) 946-1654. For more detailed information regarding the prevention, diagnosis, and management of osteoporosis please go to the National Osteoporosis Foundation's web site at www.NOF.org.



Left to Right: Lori Woodall, Katherine Perry, MD, Melody Samsell



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