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<https://www.br.de/mediathek/video/uniklinik-erlangen-computertomograf-gegen-brustkrebs-av:5e614116eb2a4f001afefe3d>

Erlangen University Hospital. Computer tomograph for breast cancer detection

The new spiral breast computer tomograph fills the small room in the Radiology of the Erlangen women's clinic almost entirely. It cost nearly 1m EUR* and is considered a technological milestone in breast cancer diagnosis. The scanner delivers three-dimensional images by performing spiral scans of the breast. A major advance in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Prof. Rüdiger Schulz-Wendtland:

“This device not only makes it possible to see microcalcifications, but also to determine the three-dimensional volume of microcalcifications. This is important for the surgeon, for the operation – to keep them minimal, but of course to treat it safely.”

80 % of all malignant tumours are preceded by such microcalcifications. So when a patient steps up on the table of the diagnostic device, as shown here by Radiology staff, she is usually far from relaxed. By this stage, she will already have the conventional methods of breast cancer diagnosis behind her- manual examination, mammography and ultrasound. Now, it is important to clarify a suspicious finding and the options for further treatment. The examination with the spiral tomograph is completely painless and can provide essential life-saving information in just 30 seconds.

It was invented by the Erlangen physicist Willi Kalender, who spent over 10 years researching and developing this device for a better and more convenient breast cancer diagnosis. This was followed by years of prototype testing. His goal: to develop an efficient breast scanner system to improve the detection of breast cancer at a very early stage.

Prof. Willi Kalender:

“There are several advantages for the patient. Improved diagnostics, of course, that is the primary intention. There are further practical advantages: The examination is absolutely gentle, very short in duration. The breast is no longer “squeezed”, as some people use to say, so compression is not necessary.”

The spiral breast CT scanner has been in use in the Erlangen women's clinic since November last year. With success. The Erlangen University Hospital is yet the only clinic nationwide to use this device. The employees here are doing pioneering work. However, three other clinics and breast centres have also ordered such a device.*

* information as provided by Erlangen University Hospital

Disclaimer: Please note that the information presented here was given in an independent interview of Erlangen University Hospital with the BR and does not constitute a part of the AB-CT – Advanced Breast-CT GmbH product information.