



# neighbors go

(McKinney, TX)

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## McKinney resident moves on after abbreviated cancer treatment

BY LYNN CANAVAN

As a wife, mother and clinical psychologist, McKinney resident Susan Porter-Levy, 52, already had a challenging schedule when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in April of this year. Although she had always made it a point to go for her annual mammogram, she found a lump upon breast self-examination. Though Porter-Levy experienced the anxiety that anyone would after receiving a cancer diagnosis, she was determined to face her illness head-on and survive.

She decided to get the MammoSite radiation treatment because of its short five-day treatment cycle and unprecedented success. During her treatment, she felt well enough to go about her usual routine and even go to work. She said she would unequivocally and absolutely recommend MammoSite radiation to anyone who is eligible for the treatment.

The MammoSite Five-Day Targeted Radiation Therapy, a form of partial breast irradiation, allows patients with early-stage breast



Susan Porter-Levy



Dr. Canavan

cancer who are candidates for a lumpectomy (the surgical removal of a breast tumor without removing the entire breast) to receive a full course of targeted radiation in five days. Traditional radiation may require six weeks of daily treatment to complete. In addition to short treatment time, the MammoSite treatment targets radiation to the area tumors are most likely to recur, while minimizing exposure to healthy tissue.

The FDA cleared MammoSite radiation in May 2002, and more than 32,000 patients have received treatment. Thanks to early detection, some doctors believe up to 100,000 women a year could benefit from the MammoSite radiation treatment.

The American Society of Breast Surgeons has expanded its patient

selection criteria for women eligible to receive partial breast irradiation and MammoSite. By including younger women, ages 45 and up, and those with larger tumor sizes, up to 3 centimeters, the ASBS enables more women to benefit from this procedure and underscores the efficacy of the treatment.

The first five-year data from a clinical study on the use of MammoSite TRT, presented in May, showed there was no local recurrences of cancer in the patients who completed follow-up. Good to excellent cosmetic outcomes were achieved in 83.3 percent of the study patients. The study also evaluated patient acceptance of the procedure.

*Lynn Canavan is a breast surgeon with Texas Breast Surgeons in Plano and McKinney and can be reached at 972-562-5999 or 972-596-8383.*

## MORE INFO

Please visit [VoicesOfMammoSite.com](http://VoicesOfMammoSite.com).