

MEDICAL



Contributed photo

Doris Wallace uses the SaeboFlex. **BELOW:** She is shown attempting to pick up a ball before using the device and also shown able to pick up the ball without the device after a 45-minute session with the SaeboFlex.

Technology helps patients to recover hand function

By John Bailey
Rome News-Tribune Staff Writer
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Kaci Poe was brought to tears when she witnessed firsthand the ability of the brain to repair damage caused by a stroke 57 years ago.

At her certification training for the SaeboFlex hand splint, she was helping a man in his 60s who had never used his left hand, and after a two hour session he not only saw improvements he was able to use his hand.

"He could pick up a foam ball," she said. "He never had grasped an object."

Poe is the coordinator for outpatient rehabilitation services, a division of Floyd Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation.

The device, which fits on the hand, is a complex looking glove with wires and springs that allows the hand to reopen once it is closed. This device allows the wearer to strengthen muscles that had long been unused.

With these types of injuries one or both hands can draw up and become immobilized — the problem if the hand is completely immobilized it will probably stay that way.

In general, healthy parts of the brain will take over movement functions from the damaged portions but when a limb is unable to move the brain cannot map new path-



ways to make the limb functional again.

As a physical therapist and a certified hand technician Poe

has seen the damage a stroke or head-injury victim can endure and recover from. Often in these cases the hand would

"Like anything else there's no guarantee that there will be a recovery, but everybody has improved — it's just a matter of how much they've improved."

Kaci Poe
outpatient rehabilitation coordinator

draw up and become useless — if the damage was long term then it was irreparable.

Now with the Flex she said there is an increased chance of recovery — even after a long period of time.

"Whatever your progress you would make in a year," she said. "After that there was no hope of significant progress."

Even if there has been a significant length of time since the injury or stroke the SaeboFlex and therapy may help.

"Like anything else there's no guarantee that there will be a recovery, but everybody has improved — it's just a matter of how much they've improved."

Poe said Floyd is offering screenings as a free service to determine if the SaeboFlex can be used in each patients' case.

The next screening is Sept. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. Those interested can call Poe at 706-509-3442.

FLU from 2

Townley added that Floyd County's Local Emergency Planning Committee is instrumental in encouraging and conducting the kind of "county-wide, cooperative training required to make this sort of event possible for training purposes or in the event of a real emergency."

Townley further said that each family coming to get a flu shot will receive a free digital thermometer and an

ON THE WEB

Visit the Floyd County Health Department's Web site at:

www.floydcountyga.org/Health_dept.htm

information package about seasonal flu and pandemic influenza.

For information about the Floyd County Health Department's free flu shot clinic scheduled for Oct. 9, call 706-295-6123.

Q&A from 2

Q: Who should get vaccinated this season?

A: In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. However, it is recommended by CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that certain people should get vaccinated each year. They are either people who are at high risk of having serious flu complications or people who live with or care for those at high risk for serious complications.

People recommended for vaccination during the 2008-09 flu season are:

- Children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
 - Health care workers
 - Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
 - Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less

than 6 months of age (these children are too young to be vaccinated)

Q: Who Should Not Be Vaccinated?

A: Some people should not be vaccinated without first consulting a physician. They include:

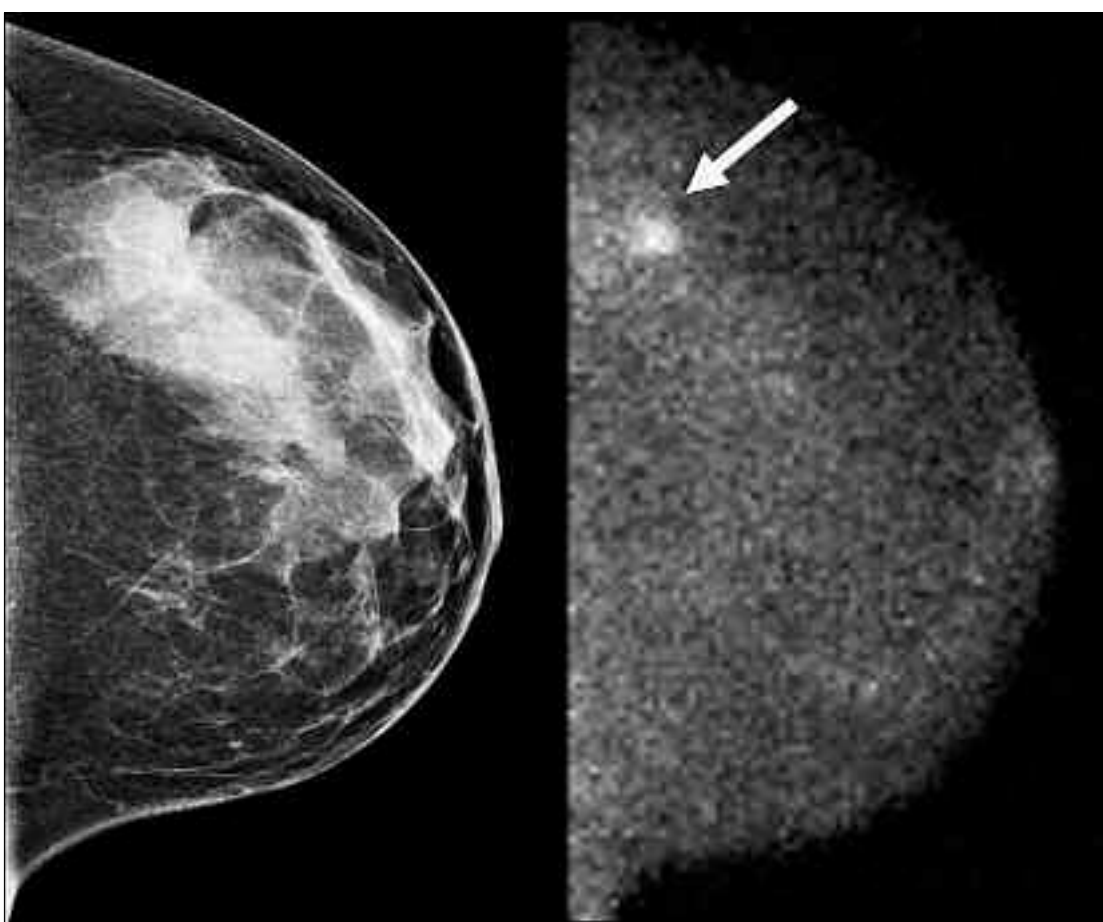
- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past.
- People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine previously.
- Children less than 6 months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for use in this age group).
- People who have a moderate or severe illness with a fever should wait to get vaccinated until their symptoms lessen.
- If you have questions about whether you should get a flu vaccine, consult your health-care provider.

Q: Will the flu shot make me sick?

A: No. You cannot get the flu (or any other illness) from the flu shot. If you get the flu immediately after getting a flu shot, you probably contracted it before getting the shot or during the two week period necessary for your body to build up an immunity.

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The Mayo Clinic / The Associated Press

These undated images show a standard mammogram (left) and molecular breast imaging from a study performed on a 45-year-old patient in the clinic's

screening of women with dense breasts. The mammogram was interpreted as being negative while the MBI image shows a cancer indicated by the arrow.

Study: New method shows promise

By Marilyn Marchione
Associated Press Medical Writer

MILWAUKEE — A radioactive tracer that "lights up" cancer hiding inside dense breasts showed promise in its first big test against mammograms, revealing more tumors and

giving fewer false alarms, doctors reported. The experimental method — molecular breast imaging, or MBI — would not replace mammograms for women at average risk of the disease.

Please see **METHOD 4**

HARBIN CLINIC

Hearing Center is pleased to announce the addition of



Lana Swope, M.A.
Audiologist

Ms. Swope received her M.A. in Audiology from the University of Memphis Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology in Memphis, Tennessee. She is a licensed Audiologist and a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association. She has twelve years of extensive experience with pediatric and adult audiology.

Licensed Audiologist with 12 years experience in Audiology & Hearing Aid Evaluations & Repair

Her office is located at:

1825 Martha Berry Blvd., Rome, GA

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