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Date: September 14, 2009

New MRI Scanner Offers Comfort and Better Diagnostics

GREENWICH, CT - ONS, Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists PC, at 6 Greenwich Office Park on Valley Drive has installed a new state-of-the-art MRI scanner that will significantly improve patient comfort while providing physicians with exceptionally high quality images to assist the diagnosis process. The new scanner, the Magnetom Espree Open Bore MRI has an opening of more than 27 inches in diameter and many exams may be performed with the patient's head completely outside the magnet bore without sacrificing image quality.

Patients may not be comfortable getting into the restrictive opening of traditional MRI scanners if they experience anxiety about being in a small confined space, if they are too large for the scanner, or if their mobility is limited. In these instances, they often elect to have tests done in an "open MRI" that features a wider opening, or bore. However, open scanners sacrifice magnet strength, which lowers the image quality and makes these scans inferior diagnostic tools for physicians. The new MRI at ONS has four times more power than standard "open MRIs".

"Patients find the extra space comfortable and also appreciate the significantly reduced time it takes to perform a scan," said ONS neurosurgeon Mark Camel, MD. "The new MRI scanner will provide us with excellent diagnostic images, and will accommodate many patients who were either nervous about the traditional MRI or who could not comfortably get in and out of the scanner."

"One of the big advantages of the new design and technology is an additional 12 inches of headroom, and a 27 inch barrel that provides greater room for the shoulder and chest area. The added space can make a big difference to patients who experience anxiety and a sense of claustrophobia when getting an MRI," said Dr. Camel.

Getting into the MRI is also easier because the table adjusts down to 18 inches off the floor. The technology of the new scanner has also reduced the time it takes for a scan and a head-to-toe exam can be performed in a single pass. For virtually all exams, including lumbar spine scans, the patient's feet go in first and the head remains outside of the magnet. For some exams, special coils are placed over a body part. The coils are ultra lightweight and barely noticeable.

"Informative diagnostic imaging can provide vital information to a doctor who is making a diagnosis or evaluating a patient's recovery progress," said Dr. Camel. "The higher the image quality, the more accurate and dependable the doctor's diagnosis will be. We consider it a priority to stay current with the latest advances in imaging technology as well as the latest clinical research to insure that our patients are getting the best we can offer them."

Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists PC is the most advanced multi-specialty orthopaedic and neurosurgery practice in Fairfield and Westchester counties. ONS physicians provide expertise in the full spectrum of musculoskeletal conditions and injuries, sports medicine, minimally invasive orthopaedic, spine and brain surgery, joint replacement and trauma. The main office is located at 6 Greenwich Office Park on Valley Road, Greenwich, CT. For more information, please visit www.onsmd.com or call (203) 869-1145.

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