



News Brief

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Huntsville Hospital obtains advanced MRI scanner

HUNTSVILLE – Huntsville Hospital patients will soon benefit from the highly advanced imaging of a recently purchased MRI system. The Hospital is in the process of acquiring the highest quality MRI device in north Alabama, the 3.0 Tesla (3T) MRI. The new MRI system will be installed in May in the Imaging Center at the Huntsville Hospital Medical Mall.

“This is the gold standard in terms of MRI imaging. Not only does the new 3T MRI, manufactured by Siemens Medical Solutions, allow for faster results and greater resolution, but it has a larger opening than many currently utilized MRI models. This will allow for patients of various sizes to feel less restricted and claustrophobic during testing, which will increase the overall comfort of the patient,” said Huntsville Hospital neuroradiologist Dr. Philip Chapman.

MRI scanners use a large magnet, radio frequencies and a computer to take three-dimensional pictures of the body. The 3.0 Tesla MRI scanner is an advanced parallel imaging computer system which produces highly detailed images. This new system will have twice the field strength of most conventional MRI scanners, which typically operate at 1.5 Tesla. These new machines capture images with a level of detail, clarity and speed never before possible. The 3T MRI can do anything which the present 1.5T MRI can do and do it faster and better.

The clinical benefits of the 3T MRI include spectacular signal-to-noise ratio and image detail, which enable clinicians to see anatomical structures and details that are simply not visible at lower field strengths. Some of the procedures that the 3T MRI will particularly benefit include: MR angiography, neurological/brain imaging, spine studies, orthopedic, pelvis, abdominal, and cardiac studies.

Editors’ note: Physician and patient interviews can be arranged.

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