



Lakeland Installs 64-slice CT at Niles; St. Joseph's Ready in September

Lakeland will install the first of three 64-slice CT scanners at its Niles facility this summer. Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph will receive theirs in early fall. A third 64-slice CT scanner is planned for Lakeland's new Imaging Center, opening in 2007 at Lakeland Health Park.

Breakthrough Technology

"This latest generation in the development of CT technology allows radiologists unprecedented ability to use CT imaging in much the same way MRI has been used for the past two decades," says Lakeland radiologist **Nathan Jordan, MD**. "In the past, MRI would be used to solve problems that were unresolved by CT, using its multiplanar capabilities. Now, using isotropic data, we can achieve this with the 64-slice CT alone. We can clearly, rapidly and reproducibly capture fine detail in a limitless number of planes to image the heart and coronary arteries, for example,

previously the most difficult structures to image due to their unavoidable motion. MRI remains more valuable for lesion characterization."

Cardiac and lung images, previously difficult to obtain with CT, often are available with a single breath-hold as short as 10 seconds. The superior images of the 64-slice CT scanner provide precise images of the heart, its vessels and surrounding structures that can detect the early onset of coronary artery disease. CT angiograms can be imaged with as little as a 15-second breath-hold.

The new CT scanner, in conjunction with advances in digital imaging and computer reconstruction software, allows radiologists to use 3-D reconstructions to fine-tune the data to better present findings. This helps define certain structures of pathology in clear visual 3-D formats.

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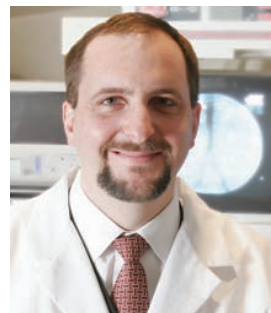
If a finding remains unclear, radiologists can manipulate the image data to present it from an angle that proves more useful for surgeons, interventional radiologists and clinicians when deciding on appropriate patient treatment.

Applications for Heart Disease, Liver Disease, Lung Cancer

In addition to new applications in coronary imaging and traditional uses, such as in orthopedics, this CT technology helps physicians identify potential tumors and cysts and diagnose diseases of the liver, lungs, and other internal organs at their earliest stages. These abnormalities may have gone undetected on conventional 16-slice CT scans.

The 64-slice CT has a number of other advantages for patients, including shorter exam times and more rapid results to facilitate the treatment process. "When

procedures are clinically necessary, this new capability should impact treatment planning significantly in facilitating the increased use of minimally-invasive approaches by surgeons and interventionalists," says Dr. Jordan.



Dr. Nathan Jordan

For more information on the Lakeland's imaging services, log onto www.lakelandhealth.org. To schedule a patient for imaging services at the Center for Outpatient Services in St. Joseph, call 269-556-2810. For Lakeland Community Hospital in Niles, call 269-687-1400.