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Contact: Richard Wells
610-667-2382

Mountainside Hospital Adds New CT Scanner to Better Serve Patients

(MONTCLAIR, NJ) Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, NJ, has significantly enhanced its diagnostic imaging capabilities with the recent installation of a new, state of the art Siemens Somatom Definition CT scanner. The new device is a “dual source” scanner, capable of creating three-dimensional imaging studies with greater speed and detail than before.

“This type of scanner is the next phase in imaging technology,” said James Cucco, director of Radiology Services at Mountainside. “Not only because of the incredibly detailed, three-dimensional images of the body it creates, but because the device makes studies faster, easier, and less stressful for patients.”

The scanner’s speed and technology, for example, allow cardiac studies to be performed without needing drugs to slow the patient’s heart rate, nor do patients have to hold their breath during studies. “This new scanner can create images of a heart no matter how quickly it is beating,” said Frank Yuppa, MD, chairman of Mountainside Hospital’s department of Radiology. “This scanner enhances Mountainside’s ability to perform not only a wide range of cardiac imaging, but any kind of imaging related to vascular disease throughout the body.” The scanner can also accommodate patients of virtually any size.

In addition to rapidly diagnosing cardiac or vascular conditions such as aneurysms, the Definition Scanner can be used to diagnose cancer throughout the body, as well as joint and bone diseases. “The scanner allows us to see not just parts of the body, but how those parts are functioning,” Dr. Yuppa said. Scans can often be completed in a few seconds, speeding diagnosis—a key benefit for patients who arrive at Mountainside’s Emergency Department.

Traditional CT (computed tomography) scanning uses an x-ray to create images. The new “dual source” scanner at Mountainside creates x-ray images from two sources simultaneously, but because of its speed the scanner actually exposes patients to half the radiation of more traditional CT scanners. Special software in the device further reduces radiation exposure by automatically adjusting the x-rays to the lowest possible amount, depending on the patient.

The new scanner has been installed in Mountainside’s Radiology department, and staff and physicians are undergoing training. “It is unusual to find this type of sophisticated technology in a community hospital,” said Barry Dykes, president and CEO of Mountainside Hospital. “but we see it as a way to enhance our service to patients. It represents another step in Mountainside’s growth as a high quality, full-service community hospital.”

Mountainside Hospital has served Montclair and surrounding communities since 1891, and today—with an outstanding medical staff, nurses, and other top quality caregivers—offers a wide array of sophisticated and caring health services, including Emergency Care, Wound Care, Women’s Services, Cardiology, Oncology, Bariatric Surgery and Orthopedics. For more information, visit www.mountainsidenow.com.

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