

8TH IN NATION TO BE INSTALLED

Brilliance CT Scanner Offers Unmatched Speed and Detail

Methodist Hospital is leading the way in providing patients with the most advanced technology available, with the installation of a state-of-the-art multi-slice Computed Tomography (CT) scanner — the Brilliance CT from Philips Medical Systems. The new scanner, installed in late November, has been used for patient studies since early December, 2004. Methodist Hospital is only the eighth in the nation to obtain this equipment.

"Unmatched speed and extensive image information will allow us to generate very detailed 3D images," explains Anthony Perkins, MD, Chief Radiologist at Methodist, "which can be used for diagnosis and also shared very quickly with referring physicians."

Suzanne Tillotson, Director of Radiology, notes, "Patients needing a CT scan will find that the new scanner offers a much more pleasant experience. With much faster scan times, patients will usually be asked to carry out one brief breath hold during each scan."

"Older patients and those with breathing difficulties or some other distress will really appreciate the shorter exams. We'll have them in and out much faster, and their doctors will be able to access detailed, definitive results within minutes."

All CT scanners use x-rays, however, the new Brilliance scanner uses a significantly lower amount of x-ray energy than many other CT systems.



Brilliance Multi-Slice CT Scanner by Philips Offers State-of-the-Art Imaging

"We always want to limit the x-ray dose to the patient to an absolute minimum," Ms. Tillotson continues, "especially for children." "Our new scanner features unique technology that ensures we get exceptional images with significantly lower dose to the patient. Built-in pediatric protocols further minimize the dose to children."

Another advantage the hospital anticipates is being able to provide larger patients, up to 440 lbs., with a CT scan option. In the past, being able to handle some larger patients was sometimes a challenge, since most equipment isn't designed and built to accommodate them.

A CT scan produces a cross-sectional image of the human anatomy which helps to exclude or confirm the pres-

ence of a certain disease. It can also be used to evaluate the extent of injuries to a trauma patient. During the non-invasive test, the patient is placed on a table and moved through the donut-shaped scanner while an x-ray beam is projected through cross-sections of the anatomy. The x-ray energy passes through the patient and is recorded on electronic detectors in the scanner.

The information is then sent to a specialized computer that reconstructs the information into individual slices (up to 40 slices with the Brilliance CT scanner) and combines them sequentially into a comprehensive image of the area scanned. The thinner the slices, the more revealing the detail is in the resulting images, and the more definitive the exam results.