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New CT Technology Decreases Radiation Exposure for Patients at Baptist Hospital

PENSACOLA, Fla. (Nov. 25, 2009) – November 8th commemorated the discovery of the X-ray by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen in 1895. Diagnostic imaging has obviously come a long way since then, and today, Baptist Hospital is proud to offer patients the next generation of imaging equipment.

The new LightSpeed VCT XTe 64-slice CT scanner and adaptive statistical iterative reconstruction (ASiR) technology further improves the clarity and quality of the image, while reducing the patient's exposure to radiation.

Research shows CT scans are responsible for more than two-thirds of the total radiation dose associated with medical imaging exams. Using the ASiR, exposure to radiation is nearly 40 percent less for routine scans, and up to 80 percent less for cardiac scans.

“The addition of the GE Healthcare LightSpeed complements and extends the range of quality diagnostic services Baptist Hospital offers Pensacola residents,” said Carolyn Schuster, director of imaging, Baptist Hospital. “ASiR’s technology allows us to dramatically reduce radiation exposure without compromising the quality of the images – a significant benefit for both patients and physicians.”

Limiting radiation exposure is especially important for patients needing multiple scans as well as women of child-bearing age and children.

CT scans are an invaluable tool in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of vascular disease, spinal problems and injuries to the hands, feet and other skeletal structures. It is also the preferred tool for studying the chest, abdomen and pelvis as well as for diagnosing cancer.

The LightSpeed VCT XTe also provides new in-depth brain and cardiac techniques – providing greater diagnostic accuracy. “With ASiR technology we not only reduce the radiation exposure to the heart, but minimize the length of exam time and capture high-quality images of the heart muscle and surrounding tissue,” said Leslie Estes-Smith, director, cardiovascular services, Baptist Hospital.

For more information on the LightSpeed VCT XTe technology visit eBaptistHealthCare.org. To schedule an appointment consult your physician or call Baptist Health Care at (850) 434-4080.

Baptist Health Care is a community-owned, not-for-profit health care organization committed to improving the quality of life for people and communities in Northwest Florida and South Alabama. Nationally recognized for performance excellence and quality achievement, Baptist has consistently ranked in the 99th percentile for patient satisfaction as recognized by Press Ganey. Baptist Health Care includes four hospitals, two medical parks, Baptist Manor, Baptist Home Health Care and Durable Medical Equipment, Baptist Leadership Group, Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine and Lakeview Center. With more than 5,500 employees, Baptist Health Care is the largest non-governmental employer in northwest Florida. For more information, please visit www.eBaptistHealthCare.org.