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CityHospital JEFFERSON
Memorial Hospital

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CITY HOSPITAL'S NEW OPEN MRI OFFERS PATIENT COMFORT

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — City Hospital recently expanded its MRI service to offer a new open bore, 1.5 Tesla, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system that combines a larger bore, or opening, for obese and claustrophobic patients with the ability to capture high-field quality diagnostic images.

The Siemens Medical Solutions MAGNETOM Espree open MRI is being offered through a mobile service at City Hospital each Wednesday and every other Thursday. Patients no longer have to leave the area for a high quality, open MRI scan, according to hospital officials.

“This is going to increase our efficiency and patient convenience,” stated Brenda Wonsetler, manager of radiology services at City Hospital. “The patient-friendly design of this magnet will make it easier for large patients and those with claustrophobia to have a MRI examination which produces sharper, more detailed images. This will potentially reduce the need to repeat and interrupt exams.”

Prior to this time, claustrophobic patients or those too large to fit inside the bore of the high-field 1.5 Tesla fixed MRI magnet on-site at City Hospital were leaving the area for high field strength open MRI studies. The field strength of a magnet is measured in units of Tesla – the higher the number, the higher the field strength. The higher the field strength, the better the quality of images produced.

The Siemens Medical Solutions MAGNETOM Espree open MRI at City Hospital features a bore opening of nearly 2.3 feet in diameter and almost one foot of free space between a patient's head and the magnet. The Espree also features the shortest 1.5 Tesla magnet available.

“The magnet, which is approximately four feet long, allows more than 60 percent of exams to be completed with the patient's head outside the bore, helping to ease claustrophobia,” stated Cindy Abshire, MRI supervisor at City Hospital. “The MAGNETOM Espree provides best patient comfort and high-quality images and diagnostic confidence for all types of patients,” she added.

In addition to the new open bore MRI, City Hospital offers an on-site fixed 1.5 Tesla MRI service that is available Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. “Now that we have expanded our service to include the open MRI unit, we can accommodate more patients along with those who have special needs,” Abshire said.

For more information on City Hospital’s expanded MRI service, call 264-1013. If you have a physician’s order and would like to schedule an appointment, call 264-1297, option #2.

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