



Radiology Director is Peter A. Rothschild, M.D.

Editor of the first Open MRI Text Book

To schedule an appointment:

7807 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40222
502/429-8998

502/429-6500

OPEN MRI, LLC
Fax 502/429-0770

www.highfieldandopenmri.com

5227 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40216
502/447-5100

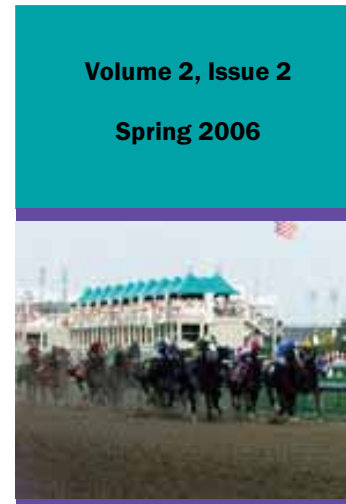


Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit #1193

HIGH FIELD & OPEN MRI

wants to hear from you. Please make any comments, suggestions, or recommendations on how we can better serve you.

Detach and fax suggestions to (502) 429-0770



High Field & Open MRI offers Picture Archival and Communications System (PACS) to Referring Clinicians

Picture Archival and Communications System, more commonly known as PACS, refers to an electronic system that is used to capture, store, distribute, and then display medical images. Images and reports are transmitted digitally via PACS virtually eliminating the need to manually file, retrieve or transport films. A PACS consists of four major components: 1) the imaging modalities such as CT and MRI, 2) a secured network for the transmission of patient information, 3) workstations for interpreting and reviewing images, and 4) both long and short term archives.

Combined with available and emerging Web technology, PACS has the ability to deliver timely and efficient access to images, interpretations and related data. PACS breaks down the location and time barriers associated with traditional film-based image retrieval, distribution and display.

Benefit to Clinicians:

Empiric Systems, the PACS system used by *High Field & Open MRI*, provides our referring clinicians several on-line functions including the ability to request studies and access reports and images using a web

browser with an integrated web-based PACS viewer.

Physicians assigned to the same group practice can electronically access each others' patients, reports, and images. The system operates via a standard secure internet connection so no special connection is required for our doctors.

If you would like more information about the Empiric PACS System currently offered by High Field & Open MRI, please contact Brooke Chism at 502-938-5556 or Kirk Macaulay at 502-599-9516.

Did you know that High Field & Open MRI Now performs Renal MRAs?

What is MRA?

MR Angiography (MRA) is an MRI study of the blood vessels. It utilizes MRI technology to detect, diagnose and aid the treatment of heart disorders, stroke, and blood vessel diseases. MRA provides detailed images of blood vessels without the use of any x-ray contrast material or radiation, although sometimes a special form of MRI contrast media (Gadolinium) is given to make the MRI images even clearer. The procedure is painless and the magnetic field has no ionizing radiation.

What are some common uses of MRA?

- ✦ MRA is a very useful way of finding problems with blood vessels and determining how best to treat those problems.
- ✦ MRA has found wide use in evaluating patients for intracranial vascular disease, so that only those with positive findings will need to undergo a more invasive catheterization study.
- ✦ MRA is also used to detect disease in the aorta and in blood vessels supplying the kidneys, lungs and extremities.
- ✦ Patients with a family history of arterial aneurysm (a ballooning of a segment of the vessel wall) can be screened with MRA to see if they have a similar disorder that has not yet produced symptoms. If an aneurysm is found, it may be treated, possibly avoiding serious or fatal bleeding.

Spotlight on our Manager of Support Services: HOLLY GREEN

Q: What do you like most about working at *High Field & Open MRI*?

I have a close working relationship with all employees, radiologists, technologists and management, all of whom are dedicated team members that excel in customer service.

Q: What does your new position as Manager of Support Services entail?

I manage all front desk employees and scheduling services for both sites. Also, I manage all the operations of *Empiric*, our PACS system.

Q: Tell me about *Empiric*.

Empiric is an online patient information system that was placed into operation at *High Field and Open MRI* in March 2005. *Empiric* allows us to schedule and subsequently view the status of a patient as they progress from their arrival through the completion of their exam and as their report becomes dictated, transcribed and then signed by our radiologists. This allows our front desk staff to always know where in the process a patient or report has progressed, all at the touch of their fingertips. A recent addition to the system allows our referring doctors to view their patients' images and reports

right from their own computer. A high speed internet connection is all it takes!

Q: How does *Empiric* streamline the scheduling process for the referring doctors and their staff?

Along with the addition of the online system for referring practices to ob-

Q: How does *Empiric* streamline the front desk functions?

Empiric streamlines our front desk functions by electronically imaging all the patient paperwork so our radiologists instantly have access to this information without having to physically handle a chart. This greatly reduces any footwork that was needed prior to the installation of this system, allowing us to efficiently issue reports within 24-48 hours.

Q: What can a patient expect from the front desk staff when they first arrive at *High Field & Open MRI* for their appointment?

Upon entering the premises, the patient will be greeted by our front desk staff and asked to complete the paperwork needed to complete their scan. Next, they will be escorted to the MRI or CT scanner where our technologists will review their medical history and perform their prescribed scan. Customer satisfaction surveys are also handed to the patient to complete once the exam has taken place. We currently have over a 98% satisfaction rate from our front desk team, technologists and the patients' overall experiences.



Holly Green
Manager of Support Services

tain images and results, our system also enables a physician to electronically request MRI and/or CT appointments. The request is sent directly to our scheduling staff after which the patient will then be contacted. This system allows the referring offices to free up their phone time, which can be especially useful when scheduling multiple patients. It also allows referring offices to submit requests anytime, day or night.

Everything you need to know About CT scanning of the Body

What is CT scanning?

CT (computed tomography), sometimes called CAT scan, uses special x-ray equipment to obtain image data from different angles around the body and then uses computer processing of this information to show a cross-section of body tissues and organs.

CT imaging is particularly useful because it can show several types of tissue—lung, bone, soft tissue and blood vessels—with great clarity. Using specialized equipment and expertise to create and interpret CT scans of the body, radiologists can more easily diagnose problems such as cancers, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, trauma and musculoskeletal disorders.

What are some common uses of CT imaging?

Because it provides detailed, cross-sectional views of all tissue types, CT is one of the best tools for studying the chest and abdomen. It is often the preferred method for diagnosing many different cancers, including lung, liver and pancreatic cancer, since the image allows a physician to confirm the presence of a tumor and measure its size, precise location and the extent of the tumor's involvement with other nearby tissue. CT examinations are often used to plan and properly administer radiation treatments for tumors, to guide biopsies and other minimally invasive procedures and to plan surgery and determine whether resection is possible. CT can clearly show even very small bones as well as surrounding tissues such as muscle and blood vessels. This makes it invaluable in diagnosing and treating spinal problems and injuries to the hands, feet and other skeletal structures. CT can also play a significant role in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases that can lead to stroke, kidney failure or even death.

How does CT work?

In many ways CT scanning works very much like other x-ray examinations. Very small, controlled amounts of x-ray radiation are passed through the body and different tissues absorb radiation at different rates. With plain radiology, an image of the inside of the body is captured when special film is exposed to the absorbed x-rays. With CT the film is replaced by an array of detectors that measure the x-ray profile electronically.

The images received by CT are similar to a loaf of bread cut into thin slices. When the image slices are reassembled by a computer, the result is a very detailed, multidimensional view of the body's interior.

What about oral vs. IV contrast?

For different parts of the body the patient preparation will be different. You may be asked to swallow either water or a positive contrast material, a liquid that allows the radiologist to better see the stomach, small bowel and colon. Some patients find the contrast material has an unusual taste, but this is generally well tolerated.

Another type of contrast material commonly used is injected into the vein to better define the blood vessels and kidneys, and to accentuate the appearance between normal and abnormal tissue in organs such as the liver and spleen.

What are the limitations of CT Scanning of the Body?

- 1) CT is not generally indicated for pregnant women.
- 2) Very fine soft-tissue details in areas such as the knee or shoulder can be more readily and clearly seen with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

We at *High Field and Open MRI* are extremely concerned about the radiation dose to the patient with CT. Therefore we have elected to install a type of multi-slice CT that has the lowest dose of radiation available. This allows the CT to be well suited for younger patients when MRI is not an option.

If you have any questions regarding CT or when to order a scan WITH vs. WITHOUT CONTRAST, please call (502) 429-6500 to speak with a Technologist or Radiologist.