



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Hills Surgery Center Continues to Set the Standard for Quality Medical Care with Installation of Regions Only True 64-Slice CT Scanner

January 8, 2007 - Rapid City, SD. Black Hills Surgery Center is pleased to announce that it has acquired the latest computed tomography (CT) imaging software and machinery, also known as a 64-Slice CT scanner. This latest generation scanner is able to noninvasively capture precise diagnostic images of any organ in one second and capture images of the heart and coronaries in fewer than five heartbeats, something no other CT system can offer.

Black Hills Surgery Center is one of a handful of facilities in the U.S. to provide patients with access to such cutting-edge technology. "Our goal has always been to provide the most efficient service, quality care and accurate imaging diagnostics available in the region," states Bill May, Black Hills Surgery Center COO. "With the addition of the 64-Slice CT, along with the 3T MRI, we are doing just that. This advanced technology is ushering in a new era in imaging by giving physicians the ability to see more anatomical detail in only a fraction of the time. This can dramatically alter the way physicians currently treat patients," he adds.

"Volume CT is patient friendly," states Nick Wilson, RRT MR, Black Hills Surgery Center Imaging Manager. "Fast scans can help reduce patient stress and anxiety, and some of the volume CT procedures can be done in only one simple exam."

Faster, easier, less risk and lower cost

Requiring little more than an injection of x-ray contrast through an IV placed in the arm, the speed and resolution of 64-Slice CT angiography allows physicians to view even the smallest of arteries in the brain, heart and peripheral vascular system. Setting a new standard, 64-Slice CT offers patients an alternative to traditional angiography:

- Faster—the exam is 15-30 minutes compared to 4-5 hours with traditional angiography;
- Patient friendly—No required recovery time so patients can leave once their exam is complete;
- Fewer risks compared to traditional angiography, since an arterial puncture is not required;
- It's less expensive than traditional angiography.

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"By providing a non-invasive study that can quickly distinguish blocked from normal coronary arteries, we can determine who is and is not at high risk of having a heart attack. This can reduce the time a patient must spend in the emergency department, or eliminate the need for hospitalization, if the exam is normal," adds Wilson.

The scanner will also be used for other important applications, such as identifying narrowed brain arteries that put patients at risk of having a stroke, and for evaluating blood flow in other organs such as the liver and kidney. "For example, once a stroke occurs, time matters. The faster a patient can be evaluated and treatment begins, the better the outcome may be," explains Dave Johnson, MD, Black Hills Surgery Center Medical Director. "The 64-Slice CT offers the speed and image resolution required for rapid examination of the blood vessels in the brain, enabling physicians to make a quick diagnosis of stroke and determine the extent of the damage."

In a single rotation, the LightSpeed VCT creates 64 high-resolution anatomical images as thin as a credit card. These images are combined to form a three-dimensional view of the patient's anatomy for the physicians to analyze. From these images, physicians can view such things as blockages in the coronary arteries, as well as the motion and pumping action of a patient's heart.

"We're breaking barriers in speed and accuracy of patient exams and are now able to offer new and enhanced diagnostic procedures thanks to our new LightSpeed VCT," stated Wilson. "The technology is greatly benefiting both the physicians and patients of the Black Hills. We're excited to be the first to offer this medical technology in the area."

About Black Hills Surgery Center

Black Hills Surgery Center, LLC is South Dakota's premier surgical and imaging center offering in-house hospitalists, high nurse to patient ratio, private suites, luxury accommodations and state-of-the-art technology. BHSC employs over 200 employees and a team of fellowship trained Board-certified radiologists. Surgeries conducted at Black Hills Surgery Center include orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, general surgery, gynecology, podiatry, urology, dermatology, ophthalmology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, and dental/oral surgery. By specializing in specific surgeries, Black Hills Surgery Center allows our team to do and be the best in their field.

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