

VITALS

HOSPITAL

St. Mary Medical Center opened in Langhorne, Pa., in 1974 and now staffs more than 650 physicians, 2,400 colleagues and 900 volunteers. The 366-bed hospital is part of Catholic Health East, which includes hospitals from Maine to Florida. Its Centers of Excellence include the only state-accredited Trauma Center in Bucks County, Emergency Services with a dedicated Pediatric Emergency Care Center, Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center and Orthopedic Joint Replacement Program, and the St. Mary Regional Cancer Center and St. Mary Breast Center.

MR DEPARTMENT

St. Mary Imaging offers advanced diagnostic services for emergency patients, inpatients and outpatients, including more than 18,000 MRI procedures. In addition to a full range of imaging services on its hospital campus, St. Mary Imaging has a satellite MRI and CT imaging center in Richboro, Pa.



Why did you choose Hitachi's High-Field Oasis?

The process of selecting the Oasis took about six months. We were ready to purchase another open high-field system when Hitachi convinced the medical center to take a look at the Oasis, which was going to be on display at RSNA in Chicago. That's why it was kind of a leap of faith. They gave us a lot of good reasons to wait. It's just the way the timing worked out.

How is Oasis impacting your MR department?

Before the Oasis, our open magnet was limited. It could only do diagnostic images for your basic head, neuro, and spine work. The prior unit was limited in the quality of its musculoskeletal and abdominal work, and could not perform angiography or diffusion-weighted imaging. All those things, and more, are now possible with the Oasis. With the Oasis averaging about 20 scans per day, Monday through Friday, it is possible to take images of more patients. The Oasis has not changed the way our job is done, it is just done faster with better image quality.

**Dr. Daniel Cohen,
Radiologist**

“What’s been so exciting about this open magnet is that we can do all kinds of MRI examinations. On an open magnet with the open environment there’s comparable image quality to a high-field closed magnet. When it comes to patient workflow in high-field open magnet, we’re able to do comparable examinations as on a high-field closed magnet in the same amount of time. Previously, exams took a lot longer and so it would take longer per patient. Now the examination times are identical to the closed magnet so we have a greater workflow and throughput.

“**Dr. Paul Weiser,
Chairman, Department of MR**

When the patients are in the magnet, they are significantly more comfortable, particularly if they are claustrophobic. And it enables us to complete the scan in a shorter period of time with few repeats of the sequences. And with the average MRI being about 5 or 6 sequences, we can get through those sequences without those repeats, it means shorter time in the magnet for the patient and we are able to see more patients in the course of a day.

“**Bradford Hall,
MR Technician**

Patient comfort is key in MR imaging. MR imaging takes a certain amount of time to get a good quality study. If the patient is comfortable, especially in a nice open high field MRI environment, they have the ability to hold still a little bit better. Having them be relaxed and comfortable helps my job because I can get better image quality in a faster amount of time so they get a better diagnosis.

“**Bernadette Heenan,
Oasis Patient**

What a huge step for the advancement of this particular type of technology. I’d like to thank the individuals from this particular site, this particular hospital, which found it within the context of their budget to be able to make it available to this community and other people outside this community. From the patient education to the actual application of the equipment was amazing. It was comfortable. It was open. I could see the outdoors through a large open window. State-of-the-art technology and I just cannot say enough.

Oasis True Stories is a series highlighting how the Oasis High-Field Bore-less MR is transforming hospitals across the country. For complete testimonies, including online interviews, visit www.hitachimed.com