



VITALS

FACILITY

The office at 900 Rand Road in Des Plaines, Ill., is a new Illinois Bone and Joint Institute (IBJI) facility which opened December 2008. This facility contains not only IBJI physicians, but also a fully equipped MRI department, as well as physical therapy. The MRI office scans nearly 200 patients a month on its new 1.5T Hitachi Echelon High Field MRI system.

MR DEPARTMENT

The Illinois Bone and Joint Institute implemented its first MRI unit in February of 1999, as part of the expansion of their ancillary division. As orthopedic groups started affiliating with IBJI, MRI services grew in strength and expanded in magnitude. Today IBJI has 7 MRI sites throughout the Chicagoland area. Our first MRI facility was opened in February 1999 in Des Plaines, which moved to a new facility December 2008, still in Des Plaines. The second opened in Glenview (2001); third and fourth opened in Libertyville and Morton Grove (2002); fifth in Gurnee (2004); sixth in Arlington Heights (2005); and seventh in Bannockburn (2007). As a health care business, IBJI's simple philosophy is to ensure our patients' health by providing proper care and good business practices.



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

We don't just buy systems based on relationships – we buy based on quality and service levels. In our opinion, Echelon has more quality driving features than other systems we looked at– GE, Siemens and Philips. One example is the RADAR feature, used to minimize patient motion artifact. With Echelon, you can use RADAR on all the coils and in all planes, and with many of the sequences. This flexibility just was not available with the other vendors.

How has Echelon impacted your MR department?

Prior to installing Echelon, volume had fallen to only 3-4 scans per day. Our old 0.3T scanner just could not compete with a recently installed 3T nearby. We upgraded to Echelon 1.5T and physicians who were referring to the 3T now see image quality advantages in our 1.5T as compared to the 3T. We now average 9-11 patients per day, an up to 3-fold increase.

**Thomas F. Nagelli,
Director –
MRI Services**

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We work with several other vendors but

Hitachi's dedication to provide service to its clients is superior. We operate Six Hitachi units and One GE MRI system. In our experience Hitachi provides phenomenal service, Education and applications support. You get a live customer service specialist who is knowledgeable and you can troubleshoot with them. We also have access to regional service we didn't expect, with little down time. The excellent quality of imaging that Echelon provides and the high level of service that Hitachi Medical Systems of America provides is one of the reasons we are able to provide greater services to our patients and physicians.

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**Elizabeth Nowac,
Technical Manager**

Hitachi's Echelon is a 1.5T short-bore MRI scanner that allows us to do quite an array of exams with the patient positioned feet first, which helps decrease patient anxiety, and allows parents/caregivers to be in constant contact with the patient during exams. This magnet also has a wide collection of different coils, multiple coil ports, user-friendly software, and Hitachi-specific techniques like RADAR (motion compensation) and RAPID (faster imaging) making this scanner a pleasure to work on.

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**Dawn Hansen,
MRI Technologist**

The Echelon 1.5T combines the latest imaging technology with the reliability, quality and value that you expect from the outpatient MRI leader. Echelon's state-of-the-art subsystems deliver advanced applications, high patient throughput and outstanding image quality – assets that enhance our clinical practice.

True Stories is a series highlighting how Hitachi and its services are transforming hospitals across the country.
For complete testimonies, including online interviews, visit www.hitachimed.com