

University Center Imaging Offers One-Stop Imaging Capabilities

"It's Only A Test Until It Saves Your Life" is what University Center Imaging (UCI) located at the Oaks Plaza in Melbourne is promoting as it marks its 10th year in Melbourne and highlights the fact that it is one of perhaps only a few facilities in South Brevard County to offer patients the ability to have all their imaging needs met at one facility. Serving physicians and their patients throughout Brevard County, UCI continues to grow at a steady pace.

"Chosen as the imaging center of choice for Harris employees and their dependents, UCI also promotes the center to area patients and their physicians as a full service facility that can serve the needs of patients that are not employed by Harris as well," said Jenny Marshall, UCI's Administrator. "When physicians and their patients are comfortable with the service they are provided they want to keep coming back to where they received that quality care."

UCI's one-stop approach makes it more convenient for the patient because all their data is contained at one location this in return, fosters efficiency. Often patients will need a follow-up study to the original images and having all the information at one facility speeds the process and helps to ensure overall quality of information that is being relayed back to the referring physician.

"Not only do we provide quality exams, we offer the appropriate exam to meet the need of the physician and patient," said Dr. Alan Marumoto, UCI's Medical Director and Chief Radiologist. UCI has spent over \$3 million in the past year updating the MRI, CT and nuclear medicine equipment to broaden the spectrum of procedures that can be performed and to provide better images back to the physician in a timely manner.

The newest MRI is a 1.5 Magnetom Avanto which enables patients to have ultra fast, short bore, whole-body imaging performed while virtually eliminating the acoustic "noise" that can accompany traditional MRI procedures. In addition, the system allows many exams to be performed feet first, significantly reducing anxiety for patients who may have some level of claustrophobia.

The innovative technology of the Avanto – a revolutionary new matrix coil concept – expands the range of procedures that can be performed particularly for non-invasive studies of the heart and blood. Most recently UCI began doing studies with the new MR prostate coil. This enables high resolution imaging and spectroscopy of the prostate. These procedures will direct a more accurate prostate biopsy or even possibly avert the invasive study altogether.

The Somatom Sensation CT performs scans faster and

delivers brilliant image quality for up to 16 simultaneously acquired slices and eliminates the angle distortions of previous CT systems. This enables improved examinations for coronary calcifications and examinations of blood vessels. But also exams of the chest, abdomen and other body parts are imaged with better resolution and quality.

Patients need to be aware of the technology and capabilities of the technology that is available to them. With today's healthcare choices, patients need to make sure they are getting the most out of their imaging services. Therefore patients should research and talk to their physician about the available imaging equipment in the area to find out what best meets their current healthcare needs.

More recently UCI added a dual head eCam Nuclear Medicine machine to its equipment base. This technology provides imaging of the heart, bones and abdomen, to name a few, complementing the other technology at UCI. The eCam also provides faster imaging.

The quality doesn't end with the equipment or the studies that can be performed. UCI is staffed with on-site radiologists who are available for consultation. Dr. Marumoto is joined by Dr. Paul Miller and Dr. Tom Foster. In addition, UCI has a complete staff of experienced, registered nurses, licensed technologists and highly trained