



PATIENTS FIRST OFFERS NEW DIMENSION IN OPEN MRI AND PATIENT COMFORT
The Region's First Open Bore MRI

Washington, MO, October, 2010 – Patients First Health Care has installed the region's first Open Bore, 1.5 Tesla, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system that combines a larger bore, or opening, for large and claustrophobic patients with the ability to capture high-field quality diagnostic images. This new diagnostic equipment is now available at the company's Washington Campus.

"This is going to increase our efficiency and patient convenience," says Dr. Robert Halsted, Patients First medical director. "The new open design of the Siemens MAGNETOM Espree accommodates all size patients and eliminates anxiety and claustrophobia. For most exams, the patient's feet will go in first and their head will remain outside of the system. This has never been possible before in Open MRI. Most important of all, the power is greater than the conventional Open MRI and assures that the doctor gets the most confident diagnosis," Halsted concluded.

The Siemens Medical Solutions MAGNETOM Espree installed at Patients First Health Care features an opening of nearly 2.3 feet in diameter and allows almost one foot of free space between a patient's head and the magnet. The Espree also features the shortest 1.5 Tesla magnet available. Approximately four feet long, the magnet allows more than 60 percent of exams to be completed with the patient's head outside the bore, helping to ease claustrophobia.

Patients First Health Care now offers expanded hours for MRI exams in the Diagnostic Clinic in Washington. For more information call 636-390-1575.

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