

Press Release

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*New advanced CT scanner helping Stone County Medical Center to
diagnose certain diseases earlier and offer more effective treatment*

Patients can expect shorter and more definitive exams

Mountain View, Ark. – Stone County Medical Center (SCMC) announced today that they have added a state-of-the-art multi-slice Computed Tomography (CT) scanner to their facility. The new Emotion 16 CT scanner from Seimens Medical Systems features advanced technology that produces split-second high quality images, permitting doctors to see more anatomical detail in a fraction of the time needed for other tests. With this new CT scanner, SCMC's doctors will be able to more effectively detect and treat a range of life threatening illnesses, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, and lung disease. The possibility of discovering disease in an early stage, when a wider array of effective treatment options may be available, will help doctors make an accurate diagnosis, and recommend appropriate treatment for their patients.

According to Rodger Stone, Director Radiology, "We can use the extensive image information we get from the Emotion 16 CT scanner to generate very detailed 3D images which can be used for diagnosis and also shared very quickly with referring physicians and surgeons, where needed, for pre-surgical planning and for treatment evaluation and follow up."

The unmatched speed and sub-millimeter detail of the new CT scanner will also contribute to more rapid assessment and decision making in trauma cases, where physicians may have to make life and death decisions within minutes.

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Patients needing a CT scan will find that SCMC's new scanner offers a much more pleasant experience. With much faster scan times patients will usually be asked to carry out one brief breath hold during each scan.

"Older patients and those with breathing difficulties or some other distress will really appreciate the shorter exams," says Stone. "We'll have them in and out much faster, and their doctors will be able to access detailed, definitive results within minutes."

All CT scanners use X-rays, however the new Emotion 16 scanner uses a significantly lower amount of X-ray energy than many of the other CT systems on the market.

"While we need the critical anatomical information we get from a CT scan, we always want to limit the X-ray dose to the patient to the absolute minimum possible, especially for children," says Stone. "Our new Siemens scanner features unique technology that ensures we get exceptional images with significantly lower dose to the patient. And, it has specific built-in pediatric protocols that further minimize the dose to children," he says.

Another advantage the hospital anticipates is the ability to provide large patients with a CT scan option. The new scanner has a table weight capacity of up to 440 lbs.

"In the past, being able to handle some larger patients was sometimes a challenge, because most equipment simply can't accommodate them," says Stone. "With the CT, we can handle the additional body weight, so that all patients may benefit from this great diagnostic technology."

A CT scan produces a cross-sectional image of the human anatomy, which helps the doctor to rule out or confirm the presence of certain disease. During the non-invasive test, the patient is placed on a table and moved incrementally through the squared off donut-shaped scanner while an X-ray beam is projected through cross sections of their anatomy. The X-ray energy passes through the patient and is recorded on electronic detectors in the scanner. This information is then sent to a specialized computer that reconstructs the information into individual slices and combines them sequentially into a comprehensive volume image of the entire area scanned. The thinner the slices, the more revealing the detail is in the resulting images and the more definitive the exam results. Patient referrals may be made by calling 870-269-4361

SCMC is pleased to be able to offer this important improvement in healthcare to its patients. SCMC, an affiliate of White River Health System (WRHS) provides quality healthcare services to residents in Mountain View and the surrounding area. WRHS is a multi-facility, not-for-profit

organization which includes two hospitals, ten medical clinics, three nursing homes, a residential care facility, three home health agencies, hospice, and a home medical equipment company. White River Health System is a member of the Premier Alliance, the American Hospital Association, and the Arkansas Hospital Association and is licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health. For more information about physicians or medical services, please call 870-269-4361.