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Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital introduces Aquilion ONE, the world's first 320-row dynamic volume CT system

making diagnosis faster, safer and more accurate,
while improving patient care and reducing healthcare costs

(21 August 2008, Hong Kong) Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (HKSH) has installed the world's first dynamic volume computed tomography (CT) system – the Aquilion ONE, offering best in class medical care to patients in Hong Kong and other parts of the world. With this advanced diagnostic imaging system, diagnosis becomes faster, safer and more accurate, improving patient care and reducing healthcare costs.

Utilizing 320 ultra high resolution detector rows and its patented coneXact image reconstruction algorithm, the Aquilion ONE is able to capture a three-dimensional image of an entire organ in a single scanner rotation (0.35 seconds). Over multiple scanner rotations, the Aquilion ONE can also show real-time movement and blood flow of organs, the only CT system globally at this time to do this.

Diagnosis Becomes Faster and Safer

"Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital strives to promote superior quality healthcare services to patients," Dr. Kwong Kwok-hay, Deputy Medical Superintendent of HKSH said. "Now, with the Aquilion ONE dynamic volume CT system, the reduced imaging time will lead to the reduction of contrast medium dose and radiation exposure dose, saving time and resources for both patients and healthcare facilities, and more importantly, enhance patients' quality of life," Dr. Kwong added.

The Aquilion ONE CT system reduces the diagnosis time of stroke, heart conditions and other life-threatening diseases from hours or days to just minutes, enabling the detection of disease in its early stages. Diagnosis of heart disease, for example, can be reduced by one-fourth compared with that of current diagnostic techniques.

Ultra fast scanning by Aquilion ONE can also reduce the radiation dose by up to 80% and the contrast medium dose by up to 58%. This is particularly beneficial for infants, children and female patients, as well as those requiring regular check-ups.

Accurate Information for Diagnosis in a Single Comprehensive Exam

Aquilion ONE can image a whole organ, such as the brain, heart and pancreas, in only one rotation, compared with the current average of 7 to 10 rotations to image a human heart or brain. What's more, this breakthrough technology can provide accurate diagnostic information in cases that were previously classified as not possible, e.g. arrhythmia.

Another clinical benefit provided by Aquilion ONE is its unparalleled ability to produce real-time "video" showing movements of an organ or a body part over time, with detailed and accurate information for complete functional diagnosis. This will open doors to new medical research and applications for existing unmet patient needs or improve on existing methods.

Dr. Gladys G. Lo, Radiologist-in-Charge of the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at HKSH said, "With this cutting edge technology, we are able to introduce new clinical applications and advanced medical care. For instance, the machine can acquire multiple whole brain volume scans to provide dynamic perfusion and vascular analysis, all in one examination and within one minute, significantly enhancing accuracy and diagnostic confidence."

Real-world Patient Benefits – Healthier Lives and Lower Medical Costs

Typically, patients who exhibit symptoms of chest pain are given multiple tests to identify the problem, including electrocardiogram, calcium study, CT angiography, nuclear test and catheterization. Tests of this nature could take days to complete and would expose patients to low but significant amount of radiation and contrast doses. However, with Aquilion ONE, a single comprehensive exam of less than 20 minutes can give physicians all the information they need to make a diagnosis with significantly less contrast and radiation dose.

The improved diagnostic time made possible by Aquilion ONE has the potential to save countless lives in Hong Kong, where cardio-vascular and cerebro-vascular diseases were respectively the second and fourth common causes of death over the past 7 years, as well as to improve patients' quality of life.

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About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (HKSH) is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. It is owned by the Li Shu Fan Medical Foundation (LSFMF), which is a not-for-profit organization. HKSH is committed to fulfilling LSFMF's vision of providing quality healthcare and advancing medical education and research, with an overriding concern for the public good.

To achieve these aims, HKSH cares for more than 30,000 inpatients and three to four times that many outpatients annually, and has invested some $100 million in upgrading its medical instrumentation and equipment to provide best in class procedures or first in class technologies such as the Toshiba Dynamic Volume CT Aquilion ONE.

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