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For Immediate Release

Hospital Unveils New Light-Speed CT Scanner

New Technology at Morristown Memorial Provides latest in High-Resolution Images for More Accurate Diagnosis of Heart Blockages

MORRISTOWN, NJ August 2005- Morristown Memorial Hospital, part of Atlantic Health System, recently joined a small number of New Jersey hospitals that have acquired a new cardiovascular imaging technology that can capture images of a beating heart in five heart beats dramatically improving the way people expected of heart disease are diagnosed.

The system, the GE LightSpeed VCT, provides a non-invasive, painless way to capture multiple wafer-thin images of a patient's heart in seconds. It shaves minutes off exam time lasting only 15 minutes compared to 30 to 45 minutes with a traditional cardiac catheterization. One 0.35-second rotation of the scanner produces 64 images.

"This new technology is exceptionally powerful and is the first clinically available non-invasive tool that can image the heart arteries and any associated arterial plaque," said John Whang, MD Morristown Memorial cardiologist. "More reliable and earlier identification of patients at risk of a complication from heart disease has been a holy grail in cardiology for a very long time. This technology brings us close to that goal.

The scanner, which can also diagnose other diseases such as stroke and cancer, provides exceptionally high-resolution images that help doctors to more accurately diagnose patients. It can non-invasively diagnose a variety of anatomical areas including the spine, head, abdomen and chest. At Morristown Memorial, the scanner will be used predominantly for its cardiovascular capabilities.

The LightSpeed 64-slice CT system is the fourth evolution of GE's award-winning LightSpeed CT platform, a scanning system that has revolutionized the industry.

"The addition of this technology improves our diagnostic capabilities over and above what is currently available in the cardiovascular program at Morristown Memorial," Dr. Whang said.

Morristown Memorial has one of New Jersey's largest cardiovascular programs with board certified physicians performing more than 1,200 open-heart and 2,500 stent procedures per year. Renowned for its depth of cardiac services and surgical success rates, Morristown Memorial survival outcomes are among the best in the United States. The hospital's cardiovascular program has been named among the top 100 in the US for two consecutive years by Solucient, a leading healthcare planning and research organization and is designated a UnitedHealthcare Premium Cardiac Specialty

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THE PASSION TO LEAD

Hospital, a distinction given to hospitals considered leaders in cardiac care, by United Healthcare, one of the nation's largest health insurers.

Morristown Memorial was also the only New Jersey hospital to serve as a clinical research site for the international clinical trials for the CYPHER[™] Sirolimus coronary stent, the first drug-eluting stent to receive Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for the treatment of blocked coronary arteries.

Cardiac specialty services at Morristown Memorial include cardiac surgery; interventional procedures such as angioplasty and stent placements; electrophysiologic (heart rhythm management) studies; cardiac catheterizations; pacemaker implantations; complete non-invasive diagnostic testing; cardiac rehabilitation; and cardiac research and clinical trials.

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Part of the Atlantic Health System, www.atlantichealth.org, Morristown Memorial is a non-profit 628-licensed-bed hospital in Morristown, New Jersey. A university affiliate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School, Morristown Memorial's specialties include cardiology and cardiac surgery, adult and pediatric oncology, critical and emergency care and inpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care services. Morristown Memorial is also a Level II Regional Trauma Center, a Level III Regional Perinatal Center and a Regional Pediatric Center. Other services include the new Goryeb Children's Center, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center, Sleep Disorder Center, Bariatric Surgery and obesity Program. The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and is ranked among the top 100 cardiovascular hospitals in the nation by Solucient, Inc., and is designated as a Magnet Hospital for Excellence in Nursing Service – the highest level of recognition by American Nurses Credentialing Center available to facilities that provide excellent acute care services.