

NORTH SHORE MAGNETIC IMAGING CENTER

A joint venture of Addison Gilbert, Beverly, and Salem Hospitals and Atlanticare Medical Center
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OPEN MRI SCANNER BEGINS OPERATION AT NSMIC

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FAST TAKE

- *North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center has purchased Hitachi's newest, state of the art, 0.3 Tesla, most robust open MRI system available.*
- *The system was purchased, in order to care for severely claustrophobic and obese patients, whom we were unable to serve previously.*
- *Although we believe our open MRI scans are the best scans obtainable on open technology, the examinations are lengthier, and of lower resolution than our state of the art high field 1.5 Tesla scanners. Hence, only those patients who truly can not be scanned in our conventional, high resolution, high field scanners, should be scheduled on the open system.*



HITACHI AIRIS II OPEN MRI SUITE

Continued on page 2

OPEN MRI SUITE DEDICATED

North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center's third MRI suite, which houses the Hitachi Airis II Open MRI System, was dedicated to the memory and spirit of Catherine B. Downing. This dedication was done during the Center's Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony in October .

Catherine Downing was North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center's first Administrator when the Center opened in February 1988. She was instrumental in the development and conception of the Center.

Continued on page 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Annual Breakfast...p.4
- Patient Brochures..p.5
- F.Y.I. p.5

Continued from page 1

North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center has been evaluating the possibility of bringing open MRI to the North Shore since 1993 in order to serve a segment of our community who, due to severe claustrophobia or obesity, are unable to undergo scanning in our high resolution 1.5 Tesla GE scanners. Over the subsequent years, we evaluated numerous systems, but felt that none of them met the high standards demanded of our referring physicians and radiologists. In 1998, Hitachi Medical Systems of America, Inc. received FDA approval for the Airis II scanner. This is a 0.3 Tesla open scanner, has strong gradient strength, a variety of surface coils to accommodate patients of varying size, and a new and stronger computer system than its predecessor. With the development of this scanner, we became convinced that we could serve the underserved population of claustrophobic and obese patients accurately in Peabody, for the first time.

As part of our new open MRI service, we constructed a substantial addition to our facility. This includes new enlarged patient changing rooms, a very spacious and comfortable patient waiting room, and the new scan room, which for the first time, is equipped with 2 large picture windows, overlooking scenic landscaping visible from the scanner itself.

Although we are convinced that this is the finest open MRI scanner on the market today, by the nature of its open design, by necessity, it is of lower field strength than our current high field, high resolution scanners. This reduced field strength requires lengthier imaging times and results in mildly reduced image resolution, in comparison to our high field strength state of the art 1.5 Tesla GE scanners. However, the overall image quality is felt to be highly diagnostic. As we remain committed to providing the examinations

Figures 1A & 1B: Open MRI Hitachi Airis II Images

Figure 1A : T1 coronal oblique of the left shoulder clearly demonstrates an intact left supraspinatous tendon (open curved arrow).

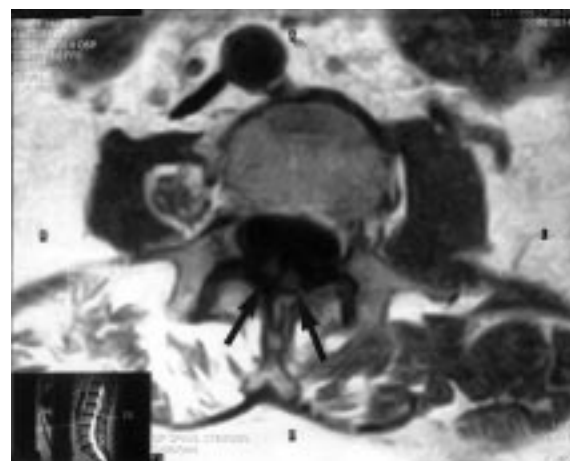


Figure 1B: Axial T1 image demonstrates diastematomyelia in a patient with a tethered spinal cord, at the L3 level (black arrows).

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

of the highest accuracy possible for any given patient, we request that the referring community triage patients appropriately between our high resolution 1.5 Tesla current GE scanners and our new, open 0.3 Tesla Hitachi scanner. Specifically, the open scanner should be considered a new tool for evaluating severely claustrophobic and obese patients and not a substitute for patients whom otherwise could undergo higher resolution, high field examinations. Radiologists at our site are available seven days a week to discuss the strengths and advantages of both systems at (978) 532-8960.

This is truly an exciting time for us at North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center and we look forward to providing comprehensive MRI services to all the patients on the North Shore at our facility.

Figures 2A - 2D: Open MRI Hitachi Airis II Images

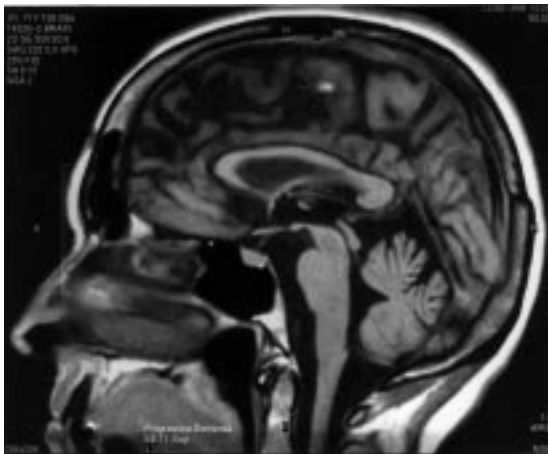


Figure 2A. Normal T1 sagittal image of the brain.



Figure 2B. This axial T2 image demonstrates normal hip joints on open MRI.

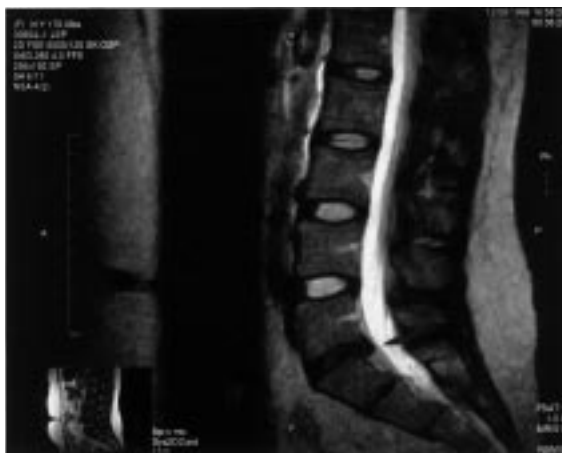


Figure 2C. T2 sagittal image of the lumbar spine, demonstrates a small disc herniation at L5-S1 (black arrow).



Figure 2D. A horizontal tear of the posterior horn of the medial meniscus (curved black arrow) is clearly demonstrated on this sagittal proton density image.

Continued from page 1 (DEDICATION)

Catherine Downing had a driving force for excellence which was an inspiration to anyone who met her. Her memory and legacy will live on at the Center and in the hearts of the people who were fortunate to know her.

Mr. Robert R. Fanning, Jr., President of Northeast Health Systems; Mr. Andrew Riddell, retiring Chairman of the Board of NSMIC; and Mr. Alex Movahed, CEO of North Shore Medical Center, took part in the dedication ceremony. The Center was honored to have Paul Downing, Catherine's husband; Warren Carter, Catherine's brother; and Susan Carter, Catherine's sister, present for this very special event.

A plaque commemorating Catherine's contributions to the Center and to the people she impacted during her life has been placed in the patient waiting area of the open MRI suite. We at the Center know Catherine Downing would be pleased with the growth the Center has experienced over the previous years. This growth has not only been in technological advancements, but also in the manner in which patients are cared for in this comfortable setting.

Annual Breakfast & Luncheon

In the past, the Staff of North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center has hosted a breakfast and luncheon for the referring physicians and members of the physicians' staff in the Fall. However, because of so many activities taking place this Fall, we have moved this event to the Winter. (*Do not worry, we won't make you sit outside in a tent during March!*) The recent expansion the Center underwent in the Summer has included a room large enough to hold the breakfast and luncheon indoors.

Plans are currently underway to have our annual breakfast and luncheon in March of 1999.

The breakfast and luncheon is a wonderful time for you to meet some of our staff members. Our staff finds it helpful to put a face with a voice that they speak with quite a few times during the day when scheduling appointments or giving reports.

This year promises to be something special as you will be able to tour our new addition and the open MRI suite. Please try to join us! More details about the breakfast and luncheon will be coming to your office. Please look for them in the mail.

Multi-Language Patient Brochures

North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center now has patient guides to MRI in 3 languages, in addition to the English language. The patient guide brochures are available in Spanish, Russian, and Khmer (Cambodian). All of the brochures have been recently updated in an easy to read format giving details of what the patient can expect while at North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center. There is a section which explains the choices a patient now has in regards to a conventional high field MRI examination on either one of our 2 General Electric Signa scanners or an open MRI examination on the Hitachi Airis II scanner. Please call the Center at 1-800-540-8960 and speak with Mary Ellen Tobey if you need any of these new patient brochures.

For Your Information...

- *North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center has a variety of managed care contracts. A complete listing is available at the Center. Please call 1-800-540-8960 to have a listing sent out to you.
- *Free care is available to any patient who has qualified at any one of our affiliated hospitals - Addison Gilbert in Gloucester, Beverly Hospital, Salem Hospital and Atlanticare Medical Center in Lynn.
- *North Shore Magnetic Imaging Center offers a transportation program for patients needing a ride to the Center for a scheduled appointment.

COMMENTS, PLEASE.

Any comments or questions about this publication can be directed to Mary Ellen Tobey, Client Relations Specialist at 1-800-540-8960. If you have a specific topic or issue you would like to see addressed in a future newsletter, please let us know. The Center appreciates feed back from the referring community.