

VITALS

HOSPITAL

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital opened in Ann Arbor in 1911. Over time it was remodeled, but eventually outgrown. Hospital leadership decided to move to a 365-acre parcel of land in Superior Township, just outside of Ann Arbor. A state of the art facility was built and opened in 1977, and has been serving patients at that location ever since. The 537-bed facility featured many amenities including all private rooms, which was revolutionary for its time.

Recently, the hospital has undergone another upgrade: a brand new patient tower opened in October of 2007. This is the first of two new patient towers for the hospital, with the second opening in Spring 2010. Additionally, a new surgery pavilion opened in December of 2006.

MR DEPARTMENT

The Department began in 1990 with one 1.0T Seimens Magnet. Added a second GE 1.5T magnet (Saline) in 1996. Since then we have replaced the 1.0T magnet with a GE 1.5T, added the Imaging Center 1.5T GE Twin Gradient magnet (2004), replaced the Saline magnet with a GE 1.5T HDX system, upgraded the Imaging Center and Joe's magnets to HD and HDX respectively as well as our newest acquisition...Hitachi Oasis 1.2T Open Field MRI.



Why did you choose Hitachi's High-Field Oasis?

It has the highest field strength of any open field system on the market. The image quality is superior to other open systems. The design is such that the pillars are offset giving it a much more open feel and most importantly, we do not have to triage patient types for this magnet. It gets scheduled just like the other magnets.

How is Oasis impacting your MR department?

The Oasis is very busy. We have been able to get some patients through who would normally have bailed out in one of our cylindrical systems. We are also accommodating a population of patients who would have had to go to another organization to have their study done.

**Dr. Mike Kasotakis,
Radiologist**

“ Oasis lets us bring two pieces of the puzzle together — both open architecture for patient safety and anxiety and also the high-field strength, which allows us to provide the quality that we as radiologists and our referring clinicians want. So as a radiologist, we’ve been very impressed with the image quality and I can attest to the fact that many of my colleagues in fact prefer reading some of the Oasis scans rather than our other scans and that right there is a litmus test for me.

“ **Jim Knauf,
Radiology Administrator**

The Oasis does for the hospital what traditional closed scanners can’t provide due to claustrophobic patients or bariatric patients. We are getting a lot of patients through without any anesthesia and in some cases, no sedation at all. Also, we’ve done some very large patients since we’ve had the Oasis, which we have not been able to scan previously.

The image quality of Oasis is at least as good as our 1.5T close systems, which really are the workhorses. The last thing we could have is a scan on the Oasis where the radiologists were not comfortable interpreting those images so they say, ‘You need to rescan that patient,’ on the 1.5T closed system, which in a lot of cases, couldn’t be possible because of the size of the patient or we’d have to do anesthesia, which is a high risk to the patient as well as a lot of cost. So with the image quality of the Oasis being as good, we don’t have those challenges to deal with and that’s a huge benefit to both the hospital, patients, patient safety and the physicians.

Oasis True Stories is a series highlighting how the Oasis High-Field Bore-less MR is transforming hospitals across the country. For complete testimonies, including online interviews, visit www.hitachimed.com.