

VITALS

FACILITY

Diagnostic Imaging Services (DIS) opened in Metairie, Louisiana in 1973. It was originally started by three radiologists and later sold to Tenet Healthcare in 1996. With four freestanding ancillary facilities, DIS performs close to 100,000 diagnostic scans per year. These scans include high-field open MRI, Traditional high-field MRI, Multi-slice CT, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, Digital Mammography, Digital Fluoroscopy, Digital x-ray and DEXA. DIS has agreements with the majority of health insurance plans and third party payors. The staff who works for DIS prides itself on the customer service it brings to patients and referring offices everyday.

MR DEPARTMENT

Diagnostic Imaging Services has four MRI units across the four facilities throughout the New Orleans metro area. The Metairie facility just acquired the new Oasis 1.2T high-field open MRI unit in April of 2009. It is currently the only high-field open MRI machine in the Gulf South area. This is just one of many different advanced diagnostic services DIS performs for the individuals who walk through its doors.



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

Hitachi has the strongest field strength in a true open MRI architecture along with the latest software technology to maximize the equipment's potential in a patient-friendly atmosphere. Management knew it would provide a more comfortable environment for those patients who are anxious or even claustrophobic. The high-field open technology also shortens scan time and provides increased throughput, while still maintaining image quality for referring physicians. Higher image quality leads to less questions from clinicians and improved confidence. The Oasis also provides more coil selection than traditional low-field open MRI magnets.

How has Oasis impacted your MR department?

DIS has seen an increase in its utilization of capacity on the high-field open MRI magnet by almost 50% when compared to the older mid-field open MRI it previously had working within its system. DIS has certainly experienced an overall decrease in patients who experience claustrophobia and has been pleased with the increase in servicing Bariatric patients.

**Michael St. Germain,
Director of Imaging
Services**

“ When we began to perform our due diligence for a replacement MRI scanner, we looked at both ultra-short bore and open MRI systems.

Having previously had a .35T low-field open MRI unit in our fleet, we knew the limitations/challenges that open MRI units presented, so we were somewhat skeptical when we began analyzing high-field open MRI units. However, it did not take us long to realize that the scanning capabilities, image quality enhancements, and throughput capabilities of the Hitachi Oasis 1.2T high-field open MRI system far exceeded that of any low or mid-field open MRI scanner on the market today.

Once the system was installed and we began scanning patients on our new unit, we quickly realized that the images we produced off the Oasis were comparable to any 1.5T system in our area. Our patients commented on how quickly their scans were being completed when compared to the low-field open MRI units they had been on in the past. We received compliments from our referring physicians on the clarity of our images, particularly on Bariatric patients.

“ **Michael Holmes,
Chief Executive Officer**

This unique magnet is not just for patients who may feel claustrophobic. We recently had a man come into our facility to have a foot and ankle MRI performed. This gentleman was approximately 7'0" tall and weighed around 480 lbs. and could not fit comfortably on a traditional MRI table. The Oasis handled him with no problem. In fact, his foot and ankle would not fit in the standard coil so our technologist used the solenoid coil, used for claustrophobic head scans. The patient left happy and the physician received the image and report he needed to help treat this patient.

This was just a sample of the unique types of individuals who can be scanned on our new magnet with high-field image quality unlike any other open MRI magnet in the New Orleans area.

“ **Kathy Rabalais,
Director of Clinical Services**

The Hitachi high-field open scanner at Diagnostic Imaging Services provides the comfort and space needed to get the exam done without compromising quality.

As a slightly claustrophobic person, who has needed MR procedures in the past, what I found as most beneficial was, the openness of the magnet and shorter imaging times. The image quality was optimum with less motion and less apprehension. For larger patients, the space provided allows for more “breathing” room while scanning. You have to see the scanner to get a true understanding of the difference.

“ **Gena Curtis,
Director of Marketing & CR**

It is our job to make people who need to be imaged as comfortable as possible, while answering the clinical questions. That is what the Oasis does and we are excited for our patients and physicians that will benefit from the quality it provides.

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