

VITALS

HOSPITAL

For nearly a century, Frye Regional Medical Center has provided sophisticated medical services to the residents of Hickory and central western North Carolina. From its modest origins, Frye has evolved into a major medical facility offering specialized care for complex needs. From the latest in minimally invasive heart surgery to laser-guided cancer treatment, Frye provides advanced diagnostics, medicine and surgery through a convenient network of hospital campuses and outpatient locations.

Frye has earned many distinctions, including the Five Star Satisfaction rating given by its patients. Frye Regional Medical Center is also accredited by the Joint Commission.

MR DEPARTMENT

FryeCare opened Oct. 18, 2002. The 28,000-square-foot diagnostic imaging center features both conventional and Open MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine, Radiography and Fluoroscopy, Ultrasound, Bone Densitometry, and Digital Mammography. FryeCare began its MRI services with a 0.35 Tesla Toshiba OPART. The GE 1.5T HDX conventional MRI system was added December 2005 and most recently, the Hitachi Oasis 1.2T was installed January 2009.



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

As the need for Open MRI services increased, and the image quality generated by the low-field MRI unit was not sufficient to meet expectations, it became apparent that a high-field Open MRI system would be the preferred choice for FryeCare's Open MRI services. Therefore, the Hitachi Oasis 1.2T was installed at the facility in January, 2009, and has been providing excellent Open MRI services to the FryeCare patients since.

**Dr. Alan Massengill,
Radiologist**

“ The Oasis has revolutionized our ability to image large or claustrophobic patients compared to other open MRIs. Large patients are still an imaging challenge, but with the Oasis, image quality now approaches that for smaller patients. Our claustrophobic patients can now receive a high-field quality exam in a pleasant, open setting. Imaging times are as fast as closed bore systems and little or no sedation is required.

“ **Sandra Holman,
Administrative Director**

The Hitachi Oasis has essentially made our Open MRI services limitless. Our radiologists have expressed that, in some cases, the image quality exceeds even that of our 1.5T conventional MRI system. The Oasis has made our MRI scheduling more flexible in that patients can be scheduled on either the Oasis or the 1.5T system depending on first availability without having to meet specific criteria. And, finally, the Oasis provides a complementing factor to our well-established bariatric program, allowing our bariatric patients to have an MRI scan right here close to home.

“ **Stacy Tramel,
MRI Technologist**

The Oasis has greatly impacted our MRI department to the point where we are not having to designate which scanner our patients are done on. The image quality is matching what we are producing on our 1.5T scanners, which has greatly increased our volumes. Patient comfort is now an option for all our patients, with the open design and the music we provide the results have been happier patients and decreased exam times.

“ **Ellen Robbins,
Oasis Patient**

I declined to have MRIs in previous situations because I couldn't overcome my fear of enclosed places. However, the open MRI at FryeCare made it possible for me to have the procedure. The open MRI allowed me to turn my head to the open sides, and even hold my husband's hand, which alleviated the feeling of being tightly enclosed. I am grateful that the open MRI was available for me and that the staff at FryeCare displayed such empathy and concern for my well being.

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