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PRESS RELEASE

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Lower Radiation CT Now at Cooper Clinic

To improve patient care, Cooper Clinic is cutting back – on CT radiation. The physician-owned medical group comprised of 100 providers has installed the GE LightSpeed® VCT XTe CT scanner. Commonly referred to as “cat scan” or CT, new software in the computed tomography equipment provides substantially lower levels of radiation compared to conventional CT scans. The radiation dosage is generally reduced by up to 40%, but heart scan radiation dosage may be reduced by as much as 80%.

Computed Tomography (CT) is the diagnostic exam commonly ordered when a physician suspects a medical problem that is not easily detectable with a conventional physical examination or tests. In the Fort Smith area, lower radiation CT is *only* available at Cooper Clinic.

While the dosage is reduced for patient safety, the new XTe software is still able to deliver the highest quality images in the industry. “Typically, when using lower radiation dose in CT scans, the resulting image may not be as clear as higher dose scans,” said Dr. Leo F. Drolshagen, radiologist. “But this new GE technology installed at Cooper Clinic uses special enhancement software to reconstruct data acquired while using a lower dose of radiation, to produce the same image quality as if done with the typical higher dose.”

Rebecca Fleck, MD, Cooper Clinic’s Chief Medical Officer explains further, “This state-of-the-art radiologic system allows CT technologists to operate the scanner at significantly lower radiation doses while maintaining excellent images. Patients will not notice a change in the scan procedure itself, but they will appreciate the peace of mind of knowing they will receive reduced radiation when scanned at our facility. Our focus on patient safety has far-reaching benefits. This technology is especially advantageous to children and young adults because it can decrease their lifetime risk of radiation exposure.”

The Cooper Clinic CT Department is located at the Main Clinic on Rogers Avenue and is staffed by three registered CT Technologists. As this area’s only physician-owned multi-specialty group, the Clinic has a long history of introducing innovative medical technology. Cooper Clinic provided the first Cardiac CT to the area, and continues to offer the first and only Bilateral Breast MRI for early detection of breast cancer as well as the first and only permanently installed PET/CT. Based in Fort Smith, Cooper Clinic physicians practice in 25 specialties at 17 locations.