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FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXPANDS CARDIAC CAPABILITIES

Utilizes Advanced Technology and Applications for Cardiovascular Studies

PORT RICHEY, Fla., June 22, 2004 - In its quest to improve patient outcomes, and reduce or eliminate patient exposure to invasive procedure times, the Florida Institute for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (FIFADI), the leading provider of diagnostic cardiac CT imaging performance, today announced they have expanded its cardiac capabilities to offer advanced technology and applications for cardiovascular studies. Specifically, the FIFADI is utilizing cardiac computed tomography angiography (CTA), via 16-slice cardiac CT and three-dimensional reconstruction of the heart, as a precursor to cardiac ablation therapy for the treatment of atrial fibrillation.

New Clinical Capabilities Include Cardiac Ablation Therapy

Atrial fibrillation is an increasingly common diagnosis that can be treated with cardiac ablation therapy that destroys very small, carefully selected parts of the heart that cause abnormal contractions. As a result, this procedure restores the heart's normal and regular rhythm. The FIFADI clinical physicians and researchers continue to work with, explore, and fine-tune cardiac reconstruction technology to offer the best images available to the invasive cardiologist for use as an anatomical roadmap to reach the target area before certain electrophysiological (EP) procedures, such as catheter ablation, are performed.

Improved and Efficient Outcomes Offered to Cardiac Patients

"Cardiac CT provides the EP cardiologist a preliminary glimpse of cardiac anatomy - it is a precursor to more invasive procedures that are sometimes necessary," said Steven M. Strobbe, D.O., executive physician and CEO at the Florida Institute for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging. "This technology is proving itself as an invaluable tool that visually locates vessels, determines the size and shape of those vessels, and the patterns of their side branches. Additionally, this technology permits routine evaluation and accurate measurement the ostiums of left atrial appendage and pulmonary veins, before the patient is taken to surgery for ablation."

Fabio M. Leonelli, M.D. and renowned cardiologist and electrophysiology specialist for the Heart and Vascular Institute of Florida, a partner physician group of FIFADI agrees: "Cardiac CT is proving helpful in the pre-assessment evaluation of the patient undergoing ablation therapy for the treatment of atrial fibrillation. This technology affords excellent anatomical reconstruction of the area to be ablated. There is no question - the future of complex arrhythmia treatment will be found through a combination of CT scanning and electrical mapping."

Multislice CT Technology Identifies Cardiac Structures Precisely

The FIFADI utilizes the Aquilion™ 16 CFX, the world's most advanced multislice CT system from Toshiba America Medical Systems, which delivers up to 16 0.5 mm slices within a 400-millisecond gantry rotation. This 0.4-second scanning capability enhances the image quality of the scanner by effectively reducing any image artifact from internal organs and structure motion.

"This state-of-the-art CT technology enables the physician to more precisely plan, perform, and evaluate this invasive procedure," stated Strobbe. "FIFADI is committed to improving and expanding on clinical technology accuracy, cost effectiveness, and patient recovery times."

About the Florida Institute for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging

Located in Port Richey, Fla., the FIFADI is currently the national leader in diagnostic cardiac CT imaging performance. Having completed over 600 coronary CT angiographies, the FIFADI is fast becoming the recognized benchmark for cardiac imaging in the clinical setting. Additionally, with the availability of on-site cardiac MRI, cardiac nuclear stress thallium, and PET scanning capabilities, the FIFADI is now gathering substantial clinical data that will correlate and complement research data accumulated by the nation's finest academic and research institutions. For more information about FIFADI, visit www.diag1.com.