

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING CONTINUES TO  
EXPAND CARDIAC IMAGING CAPABILITIES HIGHLIGHTING  
CORONARY CTA CONFIRMATION OF BYPASS GRAFT PATENCY**

Advanced Capabilities Offer Heart Vessel and Graft Visualization  
Without Invasive Cardiac Catheterization

**PORT RICHEY, Fla., September 28, 2004**-The Florida Institute for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (FIFADI), the leading provider of diagnostic cardiac CT imaging performance, today substantiates their findings utilizing cardiac computed tomography angiography (CTA) as 100 percent reliable in determining the patency success of heart bypass grafts, eliminating, in most cases, the need for repeat invasive and costly conventional cardiac angiography procedures.

**More than 200 Patients Studied in a Non-University Laboratory Environment**

Employing 16-slice cardiac CT and three-dimensional reconstruct of the heart, cardiac vessel patency was evaluated in more than 200 post-surgical patients, who were culled from the general patient population. While this study can effectively determine the patency of cardiac bypass grafts, acquisition and post-test mastery are critical to pinpoint the degree of narrowing within the graft site, and/or at the precise location of the vessel grafting.

"The superiority and value of any CTA can be directly correlated to the caliber of the acquisitions and post processing of the exam," confirms Steven M. Strobbe, D.O., executive physician and CEO at the Florida Institute for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging. "In this application, it is crucial that the quality of the CTA produces a

## **FIFADI HIGHLIGHTS CORONARY CTA CONFIRMATION OF BYPASS GRAFT PATENCY**

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proficient result, with a high-level of accuracy because this goal can be hindered by imaging artifact created by metal remnants, frequently left as a byproduct of the previous surgical procedure. Therefore, having consistent and meticulous quality controls in place, combined with expert level skill yields the best images possible." At the FIFADI, only the most stringent of processing procedure is employed, and each examination is overseen directly by Strobbe.

"Our results consistently demonstrate that 16-slice cardiac CT with three-dimensional reconstruct of the heart can be an applicable, cost-effective, non-invasive, and reliable method for assessing patency of coronary bypass grafts," Strobbe stated. Additionally, this state-of-the-art CT technology offers the surgeon and cardiologist a more comprehensive view of post-cardiac surgical status, and gives the patient a comfort level found in non-invasive visual documentation of a successful surgical procedure.

With American Heart Association statistics consistently documenting coronary artery disease as the leading cause of death in the United States, and conventional, invasive, and costly coronary angiography as the standard of reference for its diagnosis, the demand for a dependable, non-invasive, and less costly alternative remains extant. "After performing 900 coronary CTAs en bloc, and 200 exams specific to coronary bypass graft evaluation, the FIFADI is successfully demonstrating and documenting a viable alternative: the application of cardiac CTA in the post-open-heart surgical patient," Strobbe confirmed.

### **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 more than 900 coronary CT angiographies, the FIFADI is fast becoming the recognized benchmark for cardiac imaging in the clinical setting. Additionally, with the availability on-site cardiac MRI, cardiac nuclear stress thallium, and PET scanning capabilities, 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 please visit [www.diag1.com](http://www.diag1.com).

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