

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **New Open MRI Offers Solace for Claustrophobic Patients**

Claustrophobic patients can breathe easier thanks to the new Open MRI available next month at Valley Diagnostic Imaging Services-Olympic Building (VDIS).

Located on the Valley Medical Center campus in Renton, VDIS will provide the only high-field Open MRI in all of King County, the Hitachi Altaire.

“There has been demand at VDIS for an open MRI for quite some time. We can now accommodate claustrophobic and large patients who are looking for an accurate, diagnostic study, but not in a traditional MRI where they may have been uncomfortable or needed sedation,” said Dr. Phil Lund, center medical director. “Our goal is to provide patients and physicians with the best service and the most advanced imaging capabilities under one roof.”

The center’s new high-field Open MRI produces images of higher resolution and diagnostic quality than those produced from the more commonly found low-field Open MRI. This provides radiologists with more detailed information for accurate diagnosis.

The open-air gantry design of the Open MRI permits access from all four sides. This allows the technologists to directly attend to patients. The design also accommodates the most demanding cases such as anxious, claustrophobic and larger patients (table limit 500 lbs).

The VDIS Open MRI room was designed to relax patients in other ways as well. There is a two-way intercom system, and windows provide a more spacious feel. Patients may bring their favorite CDs.

The Open MRI joins the center’s other state of the art equipment, including an ultra fast GE CT, two recently upgraded Siemens Maestro MRIs, and Positron Emission Tomography (PET). In May, the center will also add a Siemens Trio 3T MRI for enhanced neurological imaging.

“Same-day appointments, fax scheduling, and premier imaging are key elements in the outpatient environment. Fast and accurate reporting, as well as online access to reports and images for physicians, improve efficiency and care of patients,” said Dr. Lund.

VDIS is owned and operated by Valley Radiologists, Inc. P.S., a group of 25 radiologists, and Valley Medical Center. The center opened in 1999.