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**SUTTER TRACY'S NEW HIGH-TECH 64-SLICE CT SCANNER CAN DIAGNOSE
HEART DISEASE, STROKE AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM -- HELPING DOCTORS
GET THE FULL PICTURE**

TRACY, CA – Detecting problems inside the body is faster and easier than ever with Sutter Tracy Community Hospital's new 64-slice computed tomography (CT) scanner. The \$1.4 million GE LightSpeed VCT XT[®] scanner uses advanced digital technology to give doctors a three-dimensional look at the body's internal organs, blood vessels and bones.

The new CT scanner is the latest addition to Sutter Tracy's line of high tech services, which includes digital X-ray and mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, and open and closed magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Sutter Tracy was the first hospital in the area to convert to digital radiology and is the only local facility offering such sophisticated CT technology.

"CT technology has advanced tremendously in the past couple of years and is changing the face of medicine," said David Bowlsby, Sutter Tracy Imaging Services manager. "This new CT scanner is five times faster and produces higher resolution images than the previous CT scanner we installed five years ago. It also has the ability to capture pictures of a beating heart, something our last CT scanner couldn't do."

Living up to its name, the GE LightSpeed CT scanner can scan the entire torso in as little as 10 seconds, taking up to 64 images at a time. The digital information is reconstructed by a computer allowing the patient's anatomy to be seen from any angle. Images are immediately displayed on a computer monitor and can be adjusted for brightness, contrast and a number of other features to provide greater detail and clarity.

"Because the scanner is so fast, it is less sensitive to motion, which is great when working with children and other patients who have trouble holding still," said T. Tejpal Singh, M.D., medical director for Sutter Tracy's Radiology Department. "It also provides clearer, sharper images and enables physicians to make faster, more accurate diagnoses. This is especially important when treating injuries to the head and vital organs where every second counts."

The new CT scanner uses significantly less radiation than CT machines of the past, which greatly increases patient safety, added Dr. Singh. It can also be used on certain patients to view the blood vessels of the heart, brain and lungs.

“The GE LightSpeed CT scanner is capable of many advanced applications that can be used to diagnose heart disease, stroke and pulmonary embolism,” said Dr. Singh. “In appropriate situations, it offers a much safer alternative to cardiac catheterization and other invasive procedures commonly used to detect blocked arteries and other vascular problems. The new scanner is a very exciting addition to the hospital for our staff and patients.”

Sutter Tracy Community Hospital is a full-service, acute care hospital that offers a wide array of inpatient and outpatient services. Founded in 1948 by a group of community residents and business members, the hospital became an affiliate of Sutter Health, Northern California’s leading non-profit provider of health care services and programs, in 1993. Visit us on the web at www.suttertracy.org.

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