



true stories

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Openness at all levels

Warm-hearted patient focus meets open MRI APERTO Lucent

Openness is a central aspect at all levels in the philosophy of the Radiology Center in Hameln in northern Germany. The light and open interior design becomes apparent as soon as you enter the lobby of the practice. It reflects in the spacious waiting areas as well as in the examination and meeting rooms. The team around Vassilios Karakidis has put great emphasis on a friendly atmosphere and the open communication with patients. "Everyone on the team keeps direct contact with our patients and we work hand in hand with our colleagues from other specialties. For example, if a tumor is unexpectedly discovered in a patient, they do not have to go home and wait for the next appointment. Instead, they will receive immediate attention and will be presented to a colleague in oncology for further treatment. Vassilios Karakidis is a specialist in diagnostic radiology and in charge of the Radiology Center in Hameln. The practice is located right in the city center, in the building of the former Federal State Central Bank and performs around 12,500 quarterly examinations.

Hitachi's open MRI. Our spectrum of patients is diverse, and we want to be able to offer our services to every patient group. The open system is a true alternative to conventional closed MRI systems, especially for phobic patients, children, and overweight patients. We can cover the entire spectrum of radiological diagnosis for every patient group."



Holistic approach

"It is really important to us that every patient gets immediate support and that we pick them up from where he or she is standing", Vassilios Karakidis continues. "This is the exact reason why we acquired

Relaxation for phobic patients: State-of-the-art technology meets empathic communication

Vassilios Karakidis and his colleagues use Hitachi Medical Systems' open MRI system APERTO Lucent (0.4T) mainly for examinations of the head, joints, and the locomotor system. The one-pillar design of the system allows a high patient comfort with maximum image quality. The all-around view conveys a more comfortable experience, especially for phobic and overweight patients. Nothing reminds of the "tight tube" of closed MRI systems.

"The openness to communicate and the attention from our well-trained staff alone has a soothing effect on the majority of phobic patients during the examination. Besides, the radiology assistant is connected with the



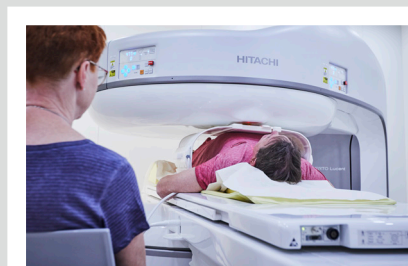
patient via microphone during the entire procedure. They automatically calm down and move less. The result is a reduction of motion-artefacts and thus shorter scanning times. Furthermore, an accompanying person can attend the examination. This comes in especially useful when scanning phobic patients or children", Vassilios Karakidis explains.

Suspected disc prolapse

The 70-year-old patient Mr. P. had fallen on his buttocks on a concrete palisade in his garden. Suspicion: Disc prolapse. Since the x-ray image does not show any abnormalities, final evaluation of the lumbar spine via MRI is arranged. Apart from the acute pain in the lower back and the legs, Mr. P. also suffers from cardiovascular problems that have worsened since his fall and cause him severe discomfort. He requests having his wife by his side for the examination. The Hameln-based team agrees and arranges for the scan to take place in the open MRI at Mr. P's discretion.

"You just feel safe and taken care of in every aspect"

"The open MRI is an asset for any patient that has a problem with a closed system. The level of today's technology is simply impressive, having devices that can take away any claustrophobic feelings", Mr. P. reports with relief. "Besides technology, the personal contact really matters to me. The assistant gave me a very detailed explanation of the procedure and Mr. Karakidis' diagnoses and recommendations were understandable. He did not use specialist jargon that I had to look up afterwards. Interpersonal contact is a priority here and you just feel safe and taken care of in every aspect."



The most accurate diagnosis due to excellent image quality

"Mr. P.'s finding showed that surgery is not necessary in his case. No defects of the nerves or anything malignant or inflammatory has been found. Since he is taking anticoagulants for his cardiovascular condition, we cannot apply pain-relieving shots. He would have to discontinue the anticoagulant first, which is too big of a risk for the heart and must be avoided. Therefore, we are reluctant with an injection therapy in his case. We rely on oral pain-relieving medication in order to make the physical therapy easier and less painful. With a little patience and the right therapeutic exercises, the pain should subside soon", Vassilios Karakidis outlines the treatment plan for his patient.



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Sumpfstr. 13, CH-6312 Steinhausen, Tel. +41 41 748 63 33, Fax +41 41 748 63 32
www.hitachi-medical-systems.com

