

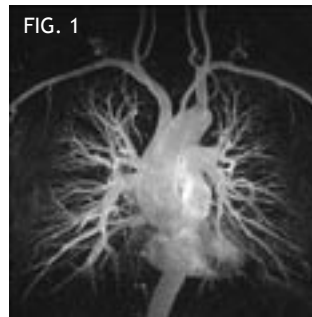
MR Pulmonary Angiography

Pulmonary embolism is a common, potentially life-threatening condition that providers must diagnose and treat on a regular basis. Up until a few years ago, the diagnosis was usually obtained by ventilation-perfusion scintigraphy or conventional pulmonary angiography. About five years ago, a transition to CT pulmonary angiography occurred with the development of high-resolution multi-slice CT scanners.

We are now on the cusp of a second transition. MR scanners now routinely obtain breath-hold angiography studies of the aorta, mesenteric vessels, and lower extremities. The combination of multi-channel MR coils and 3T MR technology adds the high-resolution needed for breath-hold pulmonary angiography. While CT remains the workhorse modality, MR offers a no-radiation, kidney-friendly contrast alternative for young patients or those with renal compromise. A recent article compared MR to 16-slice CT for pulmonary embolism and showed MR sensitivity between 77-89% and specificity 98-100% (AJR 2006; 187:W7-W14).

The first case is a 52-year-old male patient with shortness of breath. MR angiogram (Fig. 1) demonstrates normal pulmonary vessels with no evidence of pulmonary embolism.

The second case is a 59-year-old with severe shortness of breath. MR angiogram (Fig. 2) shows a large proximal right pulmonary artery embolus with diminished perfusion of the right pulmonary vessels. ■



Dear Colleague:

I'm pleased to send you the latest issue of "Update" from Evergreen Radia Imaging Center. Six times a year, we will send you information about the benefit of the state-of-the-art technology and expertise we provide. Your questions comments are welcome.

*— Lloyd Stambaugh, MD, Medical Director,
Evergreen Radia Imaging Center*

MR Pulmonary Angiography at Evergreen Radia Imaging Center

Indications

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Elevated D-dimer
- CT contrast allergy

Did You Know...?

In addition to taking care of your patients in our imaging centers in Kirkland, Issaquah, Everett, and Edmonds, Radia physicians are there for you and your patients in the hospital and the emergency room, in real-time, round-the-clock. Our commitment is to the total healthcare needs of the communities in which we live and work. At Radia, "we provide answers" 24/7/365.

Services at Evergreen Radia Imaging Center:

- CT
- MRI
- X-Ray
- PET/CT
- Ultrasound
- Fluoroscopy/
Pain Management

To schedule a PET/CT at Evergreen Radia, please call (425) 952-6111 or toll-free (877) 738-7226, or download a PET/CT referral form from <http://www.radiax.com/pdf/EvergrnRadiaPETImagForm.pdf> and fax the completed form to (425) 952-6110.

To schedule all other diagnostic procedures at Evergreen Radia, please call (425) 899-2831.

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MRI Upgrades and New 3T Magnet Allow Enhanced Service

Evergreen Radia has a new 3T MRI, and upgraded its 1.5T magnets to an 8-channel Siemens MR platform with new brain and body coils to provide better quality and faster scans.

Says Medical Director Lloyd Stambaugh, MD, "The new GE Signa HDx 3.0T MR scanner will



offer improved image quality for many of the neuro and orthopedic exams we currently perform, in addition to allowing new MR studies such as functional imaging of brain activity, mapping of white matter tracts in the brain, and MR spectroscopy. We also will have increased capacity with two MR scanners in the center, which will allow same-day urgent MR exams."

In addition, Stambaugh notes the results of the upgrade have been impressive. "With twice as much MR signal, we have improved the image quality of some exams, while speeding up other exams to improve patient convenience. This upgrade also has the potential to open up new MR imaging applications, such as pulmonary angiography to evaluate for pulmonary embolism."

Provider Survey Shows Satisfied Customers

Evergreen Radia recently surveyed 250 referring providers in the Kirkland community in an effort to determine the overall satisfaction of our radiology services. Providers ranked the "helpfulness and availability of the Radiologist" as the top determining factor of satisfaction with Evergreen Radia. When asked "What you would like us know about our services?" providers responded by saying:

- ❖ Radia's Radiologist pool is unusually high quality, especially for a community hospital.
- ❖ Appreciate the phone calls when something needs attention.
- ❖ Report turn around time is excellent.
- ❖ Helpfulness of radiologists is outstanding. Dr. Lloyd Stambaugh is always great!
- ❖ Doing great!
- ❖ Keep up the good services.
- ❖ Excellent and supportive staff.

Thanks to those who participated in the survey. Your feedback is very important to us. ■

Other top ranking satisfaction points were:

- ❖ Quick scheduling of patients
- ❖ Quality and assurance of reports
- ❖ Speed in receiving results