

CAROLINA
HEART & VASCULAR CENTER

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**Carolina Heart & Vascular Center Camera
Offers Breakthrough in Cardiac Imaging**

Aiken, SC – (March 17, 2009) –Carolina Heart and Vascular Center is replacing their gamma camera that is used for Nuclear Stress Test imaging with a new camera that utilizes solid state technology and is a breakthrough in cardiac imaging. This camera uses a radioactive detection component made of cadmium zinc telluride crystals (CZT), instead of the typical sodium iodide crystal that has been used since the inception of gamma cameras. This new technology provides 10 times greater sensitivity than the older technology, resulting in improved image quality.

In addition to the difference in the crystal material, there is also a difference in the way the image is acquired. There is no longer the need for the camera to rotate around the patient's chest. The camera head will simply be placed in a fixed position on the patient's left side. Inside the camera head, 9 individual CZT detectors rotate simultaneously creating the nuclear images.

The advantages of this camera for patients as well as physicians are:

- Significantly shorter scanning time
- Greater comfort: the camera uses a chair that is multi-positional, and the patient's arms do not have to be above his/her head
- Lower isotope doses can be used resulting in less radiation to the patient
- Sharper image quality for more accurate interpretations
- Open and fixed camera head (non-claustrophobic)

This camera is the first of its kind in this area. There are only 21 located throughout the country as well as one in London. The physicians and staff of Carolina Heart & Vascular Center are very pleased to be able to provide this incredible new technology to our patients. It will increase availability for our nuclear studies, provide a shorter and more comfortable test for our patients, and afford sharper images for better interpretation.

For more information on the Carolina Heart and Vascular Center, please call (803) 641-4874 or visit www.carolinahvc.com.