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Media Release

FIRST HEART CENTRE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH ViTALConnect®

Remote access to Cardiac Tomography (CT) reports and manipulate realtime CT data in virtually any part of the world

SCAN CVI (SingHealth Centre for Advanced Non-Invasive Cardiovascular Imaging) @ NHC (National Heart Centre) is proud to launch the 64-slice Toshiba Aquillion Multidetector Computed Tomography (CT), which features **ViTALConnect®**, a first in Southeast Asia outside Japan, at its facility.

ViTALConnect® is a web-based diagnostic tool that allows access and analysis of clinical images at multiple locations. This means that the clinicians can access not only CT reports but manipulate realtime CT data from a remote location with just a standard laptop computer and a secured internet connection. This greatly improves our workflow efficiency as it cuts down the need for doctors to travel between hospitals and departments.

Dr Terrance Chua, Deputy Director and Head of Cardiology Department at NHC comments, "ViTALConnect® gives us the capability to confer with the entire medical team at the same time. I can be at home or even in the US, and still be able to access patients' CT information by simply logging onto a Web address."

The 64-slice Toshiba Aquillion Multidetector CT is also the *first* 64-slice CT system with 350ms rotation in South East Asia, providing better temporal resolution (12.5% faster than other sites).

The other advantages of the Toshiba Aquillion64 includes:-

- Quantam detector design delivers 64 simultaneous acquired 0.5mm thin slices. This translates to improved clarity and resolution of scanned images.
- 64-slice data acquisition in cardiac scans; this implies that the entire heart can be covered in a few heartbeats.
- 3D-CTA of the arterial vascular system without venous contamination is assured.
- Provides up to 40msec temporal resolution. This translates into faster scan speed, clearer and more accurate images.
- The 1.8m scannable range accommodates scanning of trauma patients without the need to reposition.
- The sure Technologies are specifically designed to provide the best image quality at the lowest possible x-ray dose.

Dr Cheah Foong Koon, Acting Head for Cardiac Radiology at NHC says, “Cardiac CT is an advanced imaging service that requires the hybrid specialised knowledge of imaging techniques and cardiovascular anatomy and physiology. In this particular collaboration, we are glad to be able to combine the expertise of these two disciplines – cardiology and radiology – for the benefit of patients, in terms of more accurate diagnosis leading to better treatment and management plans.”

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About SCAN CVI @ NHC

National Heart Centre (NHC) and the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at Singapore General Hospital (SGH) have jointly set up a new imaging facility known as SCAN CVI @ NHC to provide totally non-invasive comprehensive radiological imaging of the heart and all the major and peripheral vessels in the body.

SCAN CVI (SingHealth Centre for Advanced Non-Invasive Cardiovascular Imaging) @ NHC will be amongst the few imaging centres in the world providing coordinated delivery of non-invasive cardiovascular imaging using the latest state-of-the-art CT technology. The centre is supported by a dedicated team of cardiologists, radiologists and radiographers from SGH and NHC, who have a wealth of experience and expertise in cardiovascular imaging studies.

About Cardiovascular Imaging

CMR is a test that produces high-quality still and moving pictures of the heart and great vessels. As it is a non-invasive procedure and does not involve x-ray exposure, it has emerged as an important non-invasive cardiac imaging modality to detect abnormalities in cardiac chamber contraction and to show abnormal patterns of blood flow in the heart and great vessels. It also has the capability to identify areas of the heart muscle that are not receiving adequate blood supply from the coronary arteries after a heart attack.

Cardiac CT is a test, which uses advanced CT technology to non-invasively determine whether either fatty deposits or calcium deposits have built up in the coronary arteries, which supply blood to the heart muscle. Although Cardiac CT examinations are growing in use, coronary angiogram remains the gold standard for detecting significant narrowing of an artery which could allow therapy to be performed (e.g. catheter-based intervention such as coronary stenting or coronary artery bypass surgery which is not possible with Cardiac CT).

The availability of these two advanced non-invasive cardiovascular imaging services offer alternative options to patients especially those who are not suitable for invasive diagnostic procedures. For example, patients with intermediate to high-risk profiles for coronary artery diseases but do not have typical symptoms might be candidates for cardiac CT scan instead of an invasive coronary angiogram. In addition, CMR is an excellent test for assessing whether the patient's heart muscle is irreversibly damaged or still viable and whether bypass surgery or angioplasty will benefit the patient. It might be especially useful when other conventional tests for assessing the viability of heart muscle have borderline results. The choice of which test to use is based on the individual patient's condition.