Doubles patient volume

The Facility
Imaging Healthcare Specialists is the largest provider of outpatient imaging services in San Diego County. We have 26 radiologists on staff and 11 locations in San Diego and Riverside counties.

MR Department
Like any busy radiology practice, IHS has a strong focus on MRI services, with 13 MRI systems spread over 10 locations. Until 2010, we had a mix of high-field traditional 1.5T systems and lower field 0.7T and 0.3T open systems.

In May 2010 IHS installed its first Oasis system next to a conventional 1.5T MRI in the practice’s downtown San Diego location. In July 2010 we installed a second Oasis system in our Oceanside location, over 35 miles from the downtown imaging center.

Why did you choose Hitachi’s High-Field Oasis?
We were already supporters of Hitachi, having several AIRIS II 0.3T MR systems, but it was time to upgrade to a system with higher image quality, while still being an open MR. We were very pleased with the service and support we received with Hitachi, so when it was time to upgrade, we knew where to look. The Oasis was perfect for us because it is true High-Field Open MRI. It fit right into our centers where patients had become accommodated to the Open MRI. The purchase also allowed us to maintain the referrals we were already getting with our AIRIS II MR systems.

How has Oasis impacted your MR Service?
The ability to accommodate a wider array of patients has enabled us to grow our MRI volume since implementing the Oasis systems. At the two IHS locations with the Oasis system patient volume has nearly doubled in the year since the scanners were installed. Our throughput has improved because the Oasis has faster scan times. Studies that once took 45 minutes can now take as little as 10 or 15 minutes, depending on the procedure. Where we were able to see eight patients a day before, we are now routinely seeing 15 and, at times, even 20.
Jon Robins, M.D.
Radiologist
Imaging Healthcare Specialists

Our AIRIS technology, and the support we have received from Hitachi, has allowed us to acquire a leadership position as the premier Open MRI provider in our communities. Now, with the Oasis, we are expanding that recognition to those in our referral base that have demanded High Field. The most discriminating of our specialty community have been very positive in their acceptance of our image quality.

Tom Cleary
President and Chief Operating Officer
Imaging Healthcare Specialists

In the past we had several low field open scanners which helped us carve out a niche for our company in the community. The Oasis has enabled us to maintain that niche, but with improved image quality that our referring physicians demand. The difference in image quality between our Oasis scanners and high field closed scanners is essentially imperceptible. Also, there have been numerous times where large or claustrophobic patients failed on our closed scanner, but then succeeded on the Oasis. We have even been able to get patients who were otherwise scheduled for IV sedation, to get through exams without any sedation by being scanned on their sides. The Oasis is a well-rounded workhorse.