

Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital first on Northshore to implant MRI Safe Pacemakers

(Lacombe, LA - May 11, 2011) Today, Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital announced that it is the first hospital on the Northshore to implant the Revo MRI™ SureScan® pacing system, the first MR-conditional pacing system designed, tested and FDA approved for use in the Magnetic Resonance Imaging environment. An interventional cardiologist on the hospital's medical staff, Waseem Jaffrani, MD, successfully used the Revo MRI™ SureScan. Prior to the Revo MRI SureScan pacing system, MRI procedures for patients with implanted pacemakers were not recommended because the patients might face serious complications, such as interference with pacemaker operation, damage to system components, lead or pacemaker dislodgement or change in pacing capture threshold.

Developed by Medtronic, the Revo MRI SureScan pacing system is the first pacing system of its kind in the U.S. The Revo MRI SureScan pacing system was designed to address safety concerns around MRI procedures for patients who have implanted pacemakers. MRI scanners may cause traditional pacemakers to interpret MRI-generated electrical noise and withhold pacing therapy or deliver unnecessary pacing therapy. The Revo MRI pacing system, when programmed into SureScan mode prior to an MRI scan, is designed to be used safely in the MRI environment.

The number of patients with pacemakers is growing at the same time that the use of MRI is increasing. About 40 million MRI scans are performed annually in the United States. MRI is often preferred by physicians because it provides a level of detail and clarity not offered by other soft tissue imaging modalities.

It has been estimated that there is a 50 to 75 percent probability that cardiac device patients will be indicated for an MRI over the lifetime of their devices. Furthermore, more than 200,000 patients annually in the U.S. have to forego an MRI scan because they have a pacemaker. The Revo MRI SureScan pacing system can help address this important unmet patient need.

“Medical imaging and electronic implantable devices such as pacemakers are important technological advances, particularly for older people,” said Sean Behlar, Cardiac Cath Lab and Imaging Director at Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital. LMCHH is proud to provide safer access to MRI for our patients. We encourage our patients to talk to their physician about which pacing system is right for them.”

About Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital

Opened in 2003 in the heart of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital (LMCHH) is a 137-bed general acute care facility noted nationally for excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease as well as disease and injury affecting the spine. The hospital also provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care that includes urology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, general surgery and a full-service Emergency Department that is a nationally accredited Chest Pain Center, the only one on the North Shore. LMCHH serves patients from Tangipahoa, Washington and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana and from southern Mississippi counties.

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