



A N O P E N L E T T E R *from* C A P E F E A R V A L L E Y H E A L T H :: *part 9 in a series*

*this is* YOUR HOSPITAL...

## TECHNOLOGY*and* INNOVATION *that saves* LIVES

From detecting cancer to determining the cause of stroke, diagnostic imaging not only saves lives but can also help determine the course of treatment.

Everyone should be familiar with X-rays. They diagnose everything from broken bones to arthritis. But there's a wide range of lesser-known imaging studies available that are no less vital.

Almost everyone has heard of MRIs, but what is an MRA? Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) looks at human arteries so they can be studied for blood vessel conditions like stroke, aneurysms and abnormal narrowing. MRAs use a magnetic field and radio wave pulses to create pictures for radiologists to study. Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and Cape Fear Valley Diagnostic Center both perform MRA studies.

Cape Fear Valley Health has the area's only PET/CT scanner. It combines Computed Tomography (CT) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) to show what the body looks like on the inside and what it is doing biochemically. PET/CT is often used to determine the stage of a patient's cancer and monitor how well the patient responds to treatment.

CTs have been around for decades, advancing from single-slice CT scanners to today's much-more powerful 64-slice versions. Like X-rays, they use radiation to take pictures inside the body. But CT scanners create multiple cross-sectional images, or "slices," that are stitched together by computer to create a two-dimensional or three-dimensional model. CTs are often used to diagnose liver, kidney, spleen, pancreas, bowel and colon diseases. Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and Health Pavilion North have 64-slice CT scanners.

Pregnant women often get ultrasounds, but that's just one use for the technology. Ultrasounds can detect abdominal aneurysms, carotid artery blockages and peripheral arterial disease. They can also be used to detect gall bladder disease, as well as problems in the liver, kidneys and more. Cape Fear Valley's imaging team performs ultrasounds at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and Highsmith-Rainey Specialty Hospital, as well as its three outpatient centers: Cape Fear Valley Diagnostic Center, Health Pavilion North and Health Pavilion Hoke.

Looking at the human body isn't the only thing Cape Fear Valley's imaging team can do. The team can also treat patients with minimally invasive techniques. Called interventional radiology, the specialty field can treat vertebral compression fractures, aneurysms and fibroids – all without the need for surgery.

Technology and innovation that saves lives – that's what Cape Fear Valley's imaging services brings to the residents of Cumberland, Hoke and Harnett counties.

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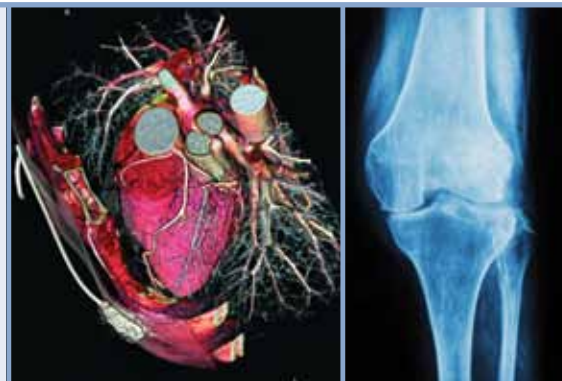
## CAPE FEAR VALLEY HEALTH



Cape Fear Valley has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™

**CAPE FEAR VALLEY is proud of its accreditations and certifications in Radiology:**

- ▶ The Joint Commission
- ▶ American College of Radiology
- ▶ FDA – Food and Drug Administration
- ▶ Nuclear Regulatory Agency
- ▶ NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR)
- ▶ National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC)



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