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Background Information: Magnetom Avanto

The Magnetom Avanto is Siemens' standard 1.5-Tesla MR System and the first which has been equipped with the innovative Tim technology in 2003. The heart of Tim or the Total imaging matrix is the revolutionary matrix coil design that allows the combination of 76 coil elements with up to 32 RF channels [76x32] – a combination that enables considerable improvements in both acquisition speed and image quality. Magnetom Avanto is also characterized by particularly strong gradients (comparable to "engines" for the MRI), which allow fast examinations of the heart and detailed analysis of the cerebral functions. With AudioComfort, a combination of innovative technical measures for noise suppression, a reduction of up to 97 percent to the conventional noise level can be achieved. Protection of the patient through ear plugs or headphones often becomes unnecessary. The possibility of scanning patients feet first as well as the acquisition time for a whole-body scan of only twelve minutes make the Magnetom Avanto the most efficient and patient-friendly system in its class.

Magnetom Avanto offers numerous functions to improve the clinical workflow, including for example Phoenix. With this software the health professional can easily reproduce clinical images. With only a few mouse clicks, the MR protocol belonging to the desired clinical image is activated, which allows a new examination with identical parameters. This opens up new ways, for example in post-therapeutic findings of malignant tumors and results can be easily compared and evaluated with pre-therapy images.

Magnetom Avanto is equipped with Siemens' standardized user interface syngo, the intuitive software platform for all imaging modalities and systems. syngo standardizes all handling procedures for different modalities like CT and MR and has been sold over 30,000 times all over the world.

Siemens Medical Solutions is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry. The company is known for bringing together innovative medical technologies, healthcare information systems, management consulting, and support services, to help customers achieve tangible, sustainable, clinical and financial outcomes. From imaging systems for diagnosis, to therapy equipment for treatment, to molecular medicine to hearing instruments and beyond, Siemens innovations contribute to the health and well-being of people across the globe, while improving operational efficiencies and optimizing workflow in hospitals, clinics, home health agencies, and doctors' offices. Recent acquisitions in the area of in-vitro diagnostics – such as Diagnostic Products Corporation – mark a significant milestone for Siemens as it becomes the first full service diagnostics company. Employing approximately 36,000 people worldwide and operating in more than 130 countries, Siemens Medical Solutions reported sales of 8.23 billion EUR, orders of 9.33 billion EUR and group profit of 1,06 billion EUR for fiscal 2006 (preliminary figures). Further information can be found under: <http://www.siemens.com/medical>