

SIEMENS

Press Presse Prensa

Medical Solutions

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Background information: Symbia – TruePoint SPECT CT

TruePoint SPECT CT integrates the newest e.cam SPECT technology and the computed tomograph Somatom Emotion. In a single session, this innovative imaging technique quickly acquires exact diagnostic information on the molecular and anatomical level. The physician is then able to detect changes in cell activity before they are visible as structural alterations. TruePoint SPECT CT establishes the exact position, size, and type, as well as the extent of disease.

The physician is able to use the Symbia platform with TruePoint SPECT CT technology for three separate examination variants: SPECT, Multislice CT and SPECT CT – and all that with a single system. Its small footprint allows Symbia to be integrated into various clinical environments. Symbia offers different multislice CT configurations with rotation speeds of up to 0.6 seconds per rotation, enabling high-quality CT acquisitions in a few seconds. As a result, the physician is able to generate functionally exact and anatomically precise SPECT CT studies in considerably less time than other competitive systems on the market.

Nuclear medicine diagnostics display the distribution of slightly radioactive material in human beings that were injected in low quantities. For this purpose it also uses PET (Positron Emission Tomography) in addition to SPECT as mentioned above. The latter

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established itself as a combination with an imaging technology known as PET/CT (positron emission tomography – computed tomography) and offers SPECT CT (single photon emission computed tomography – computed tomography) as a new technology. Nuclear Medicine makes it possible to localize and examine physiological and biochemical processes and/or their pathological changes. As compared to other imaging technologies, nuclear medicine examinations are function oriented. The metabolic processes are examined with different radioactive substances known for their short half-life and displayed in the form of functional images. Depending on their pharmacological characteristics, the substances accumulate in different body tissue. When they decay, they usually emit gamma rays similar to X-radiation. For example, tumors at very early stages are visualized. Or after a heart attack it can be easily and accurately determined where, and to what extent, the heart muscle was damaged by the lack of blood supplied.

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>