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Contact: Diane LeBrun, Marketing Coordinator, (707) 995-5846

State-of-the-art Cancer Detection Now Available at Redbud

Physicians at Redbud Community Hospital are now able to view cancer in a more precise way, with a state-of-the-art mobile PET/CT scanner.

The new technology enables doctors to more accurately detect cancer and pinpoint its exact location in the body. Redbud Community Hospital is the only hospital in Lake County with the new technology.

Both CT (computed tomography) and the newer PET (positron emission tomography) have added valuable dimensions to cancer diagnosis, but each has limitations. A CT scan is a series of X-rays taken sequentially along the length of the body, producing images that resemble cross sections of organs and other structures. CT gives sharp views of anatomical features and differentiates between types of soft tissue, bone, and blood vessels. The technique reveals lesions, tumors, and metastases.

PET scans, meanwhile, focus more on how structures behave than on how they look. They detect the metabolic activity of tissues — how rapidly they are consuming the sugar that fuels biological growth. Cancerous tissue consumes sugar at a high rate, which shows up on PET scans as bright areas. PET can distinguish between dead scar tissue and active cancer, and detect cancers at a smaller, earlier stage than CT.

Before the development of the combined PET/CT scanner several years ago, patients would have a CT scan on one machine and a PET on another. Imaging experts would then compare the images, with the CT providing the physical landmarks for precisely locating the PET findings.

According to Redbud Community Hospital and St. Helena Hospital radiologist David Racker, MD, PET/CT scans will greatly decrease the time to diagnose what is or isn't cancer, "Not only will the community have one of the most state-of-the-art cancer detection scans available locally, but we can now diagnose cancer in minutes compared to days."

"PET/CT also solves another limitation of current cancer care which is the difficulty of quickly assessing how well a therapy is working," said Racker. "Expanding the use of

PET/CT technology can provide early and accurate assessment of a tumor's response to a particular therapy allowing physicians to better tailor a patient's treatment."

Redbud Hospital President & CEO, Carrie Luyster said, "Having this state of the art technology in a mobile configuration allows Redbud to meet community needs by offering a state-of-the-art exam to patients in our region which is otherwise only offered at larger, metropolitan hospitals."

For more information on PET/CT scanning, contact your physician or call 866-293-3500.

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Redbud Community Hospital is part of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health system operating in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Founded on the Seventh-day Adventist legacy of Christian health care, Adventist Health is comprised of 20 hospitals with more than 3,100 beds, 18,300 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 16 home care agencies and three joint-venture retirement centers. For more information, visit www.adventisthealth.org.