



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER NOW HOME TO THE STATE'S ONLY CERETOM PORTABLE CT SCANNER**

HARTFORD, Conn.— Cutting-edge technology has once again made its way to Connecticut Children's Medical Center; this time in the form of the CereTom portable CT scanner.

Connecticut Children's is the only hospital in Connecticut and one of only about 50 in the country to have a CereTom scanner. With the addition of this vital piece of imaging technology, Connecticut Children's joins the ranks of such prestigious institutions like Massachusetts General Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic.

The CereTom allows surgeons to access the diagnosed images right in the operating room or by the bedside. The CereTom eliminates the time and effort as well as minimizes the risk of having to transport critical patients from their hospital beds or the operating rooms to the fixed CT scanner two floors below in the Medical Center's Radiology Department.

Director of Neurosurgery Paul Kanev, MD, MS, was instrumental in acquiring the CereTom in late December and utilized it shortly thereafter during a procedure to resection a brain tumor.

"The CereTom is very beneficial particularly in cases that involve brain tumors," Dr. Kanev said. "We can now verify right in the OR that the entire tumor has been removed before the child leaves surgery."

Dr. Kanev added that in other cases such as those involving complex hydrocephalus whereas excess fluid is on the child's brain, a shunt has to be inserted to drain the fluid. Without access to the CereTom, the patient would have to be transported for a CT scan following the surgery to verify the correct location of the tubing—if the shunt shifts—the child would have to return for another surgical procedure. With the CereTom, the location of the shunt can be verified and corrected all during the same procedure.

"The knowledge that a hemorrhage has been evacuated and that no distant bleeding sites have expanded helps minimize the patient's return to the operating room," Dr. Kanev said. "The CereTom also is a boost to the unique role that Connecticut Children's has as the region's only Level I pediatric trauma center."

Dr. Kanev added that the scanned images of the CereTom interface with the Medical Center's Picture Archiving and Communications Systems, and use of the scanner in the OR only adds about 10 minutes to each case.

Pediatric neurosurgeon Jonathan Martin, MD, echoed Dr. Kanev's sentiments regarding the portable CT scanner and said its wide range of benefits extend beyond the OR.



(more)

“Because of the portability of this technology it's very cost-effective in that fewer children have to return to the OR for the same procedure which means a decreased risk of infection,” Dr. Martin said.

In addition to neurosurgery, the CereTom can be utilized in the Emergency Department as well as the Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units. Its portability allows staff nurses to remain by the bedside on the unit instead transporting children off the unit to Radiology.

Made by Massachusetts-based NeuroLogica Corporations, the CereTom is about five feet tall, four feet wide and



weighs about 750 pounds. The unit is housed in the Medical Center's Radiology Department and can be transported anywhere in the hospital. Because of its small size, the CereTom can accommodate the entire body of a child under age 2 as well as any patient head size. Use of the CereTom gain worldwide attention recently when it was recently utilized in Saudi Arabia during a successful separation surgery of 1-year-old twins conjoined at the skull.

Drs. Kanev and Martin said the addition of the CereTom not only shows the commitment that Connecticut Children's has made to the latest medical technology; it also reinforces the commitment of the Medical Center's generous donor base. Numerous individuals and organizations—including one anonymous member of the hospital's medical staff—helped fund the purchase of the CereTom.

One of those organizations is a longtime friend to Connecticut Children's; the Ferrari Club of America/New England Region which raised more than \$75,000 toward the purchase of the CereTom at its annual Concorso Ferrari event last June. FCA/NER Regional Director David Friar said that thanks to all the support his organization has raised since the Concorso Ferrari event began eight years ago, more than \$600,000 has been raised for Connecticut Children's.

“We're proud to be able to make a difference in the lives of so many children and families,” Friar said. “Personally, I'm so moved with the success stories that are directly told to me by the families that it just motivates me to go the extra mile for next year's event.”