

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## UT SOUTHWESTERN ACQUIRES TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED SCANNER THAT COMBINES PET, CT IMAGING

DALLAS – May 8, 2002 – UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is one of the first institutions in the United States to receive a new \$2 million medical imaging machine allowing physicians to perform a positron emission tomography (PET) scan and computerized tomography (CT) scan at the same time.

The machine, named one of *Time* magazine's top inventions in 2000, allows doctors to more precisely and accurately locate tumors or other abnormalities by taking two different types of scans at the same time.

It is one of the first such machines in the North Texas area and is open to patients from around the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Dr. Dana Mathews, associate professor of radiology and medical director of the PET facility at UT Southwestern, said combining two scanners together allows physicians to accurately compare two different images and possibly prevent having to do more invasive and potentially painful procedures.

"A PET scan analyzes metabolic changes in the body, while a CT scan shows anatomic detail," she said. "When we have to do the scans at different times, the patient can move or be in a slightly different position and make the results harder to compare precisely."

But when doing the scans simultaneously, doctors get a more complete picture of the patients' situation and can make a faster diagnosis.

While UT Southwestern already has PET scanners and CT scanners, Mathews and colleagues are excited about the opportunity to do the two scans together with the new machine.

"With the combination scanner, we know we are seeing the same things in both images," she said. "This allows physicians to make a more accurate assessment or diagnosis."

PET scans are traditionally used to diagnose or monitor cancer, cardiovascular disease, epilepsy or Alzheimer's disease, among others.

The machine was installed in April at UT Southwestern's PET facility at 1311 Record Crossing Road. Patients from around the Dallas-Fort Worth area can come to UT Southwestern to have the scan done.

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