

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Contact:**

**J. Scott Bowen, M.D.**

**425-251-5183**

**[Jbowen@vrads.com](mailto:Jbowen@vrads.com)**

## **LOCAL RADIOLOGISTS FOCUS ON PATIENT PROTECTION**

### *Radiologists Take Steps to Ensure Less Exposure to Radiation*

**Renton, WA (July 10, 2007)** – In response to the growing concern about exposure to ionizing radiation from diagnostic testing, diagnostic imaging service providers reassure the community that they are committed to awareness and protection of radiation exposure.

The benefits of diagnostic image testing far outweigh the risk of radiation exposure from a medical test. “Radiologists are aware of the cumulative risks associated with radiation and take the proper precautions to reduce exposure,” said Dr. John Bauman, a physician with Valley Radiologists, [Inc. P.S.](#)

Both radiologists and registered technologists are trained in the proper use of radiation in medical procedures. The radiology community is committed to patient safety by evaluating various means of achieving the same testing results at a lower dose of radiation. Valley Radiologists use state-of-the-art CT scanners that give technologists the ability to adjust radiation dosage. Dr. Bauman explained, “These scanners allow us not only to adjust the dose but to get the best image at a lower dose.”

Specific factors that play into the amount of risk carried by exposure to radiation are difference in age and the body part exposed. An ankle or wrist scan will be subject to less risk than a chest angiogram. Higher levels of radiation in the chest angiograms allow radiologists a closer and more detailed inspection of the arteries in the lungs and chest.

In 2005, Dr. Bauman was tasked with bringing cardiac CT to Valley Medical Center and became concerned with the dose of radiation to breast tissue. Realizing that women would encounter a much greater health risk than men, he began using radiation absorbing shields when performing cardiac CT scans on patients. Valley Radiologists became the areas first radiology group to implement breast, eye and thyroid shields as a standard dose reduction procedure [at each of their 6 service sites](#).

The American College of Radiology ([ACR](#)) has taken the lead on developing an extensive set of recommendations for lowering radiation dosage in patients. Valley Radiologists operate under strict guidelines put in place by the ACR to provide the highest level of care, quality and safety to patients.

###

**About Valley Radiologists**

Valley Radiologists provide patients with cost effective, high quality imaging services in a caring, professional atmosphere. In addition, it is our goal to provide referring physicians with readily available consultations as well as accurate, timely test results. For more information on Valley Radiologists and the safety measures being put in place, visit [www.vrads.com](http://www.vrads.com).