



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. FDA CLEARS GE HEALTHCARE'S LUNAR iDXA™, A BREAKTHROUGH IN BONE DENSITOMETRY

New Bone Mineral Density System Offers Physicians Enhanced Image Quality and Clinical Performance for Advanced Applications

MILWAUKEE, WI, OCTOBER 24, 2005 - GE Healthcare received FDA clearance today for the Lunar iDXA™, the latest addition to the company's market leading bone densitometry platform. The new iDXA provides physicians unprecedented image quality with the best precision and accuracy, allowing them the opportunity to detect, diagnose and monitor treatment of osteoporosis, a disease characterized by low bone mass and increased risk of fracture, more accurately and earlier in the disease process.

GE is the industry leader in bone assessment technologies and has steadily grown its Lunar product line by continuing to provide the industry's most advanced technologies and services, enabling growth in 2004 that significantly outpaced its nearest competitor. The company's global sales revenues for its Lunar product line have grown 40 percent since 2001.

Once thought to be a normal part of aging, it is now known that osteoporosis can be slowed and fractures avoided with early detection and treatment. According to the 2004 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, 10 million Americans over the age of 50 have osteoporosis, while another 34 million are at risk for developing the disease. The report also states that approximately 1.5 million bone fractures per year are attributable to osteoporosis and health care expenditures related to osteoporosis are estimated to be \$18 billion per year.

The new iDXA system is built on the foundation of the industry standard Lunar Prodigy. The iDXA delivers precision and accuracy for bone densitometry and body composition



assessment, with unprecedented image detail and resolution. The system's powerful acquisition capabilities offer crisp, high resolution images of all skeletal sites, revealing vertebral deformities never seen before while providing doctors and patients with accurate measurements free from error, every time.

At the heart of the iDXA is the revolutionary 6-Point Calibration technique and CZT-HD™ detector. These new applications provide a wider range of choices to meet patient's clinical needs, enabling clinicians to:

- Adjust for the full range of bone mineral density (BMD) and fat/lean values, rather than only for average patients. The iDXA performs 6-Point Calibration with normal, pre-osteoporosis, and osteoporotic BMD values, as well as lean, normal and obese values. The result offers more clinical confidence to physicians.
- GE's breakthrough CZT-HD detector creates extremely precise measurement of the bone, allowing physicians to track changes previously too minor to detect, faster than ever before. This allows physicians to better manage osteoporosis treatment plans by offering feedback faster.

“With the iDXA system we're increasing the opportunity of an earlier diagnosis for our patients,” said Jennie Hanson, President of Lunar, a division of GE Healthcare. “In many cases disease can be successfully treated - if doctors can detect and intervene early. And for patients who've been diagnosed with osteoporosis, the trick is motivating them to stay on their treatment plans. Osteoporosis treatment requires time, and feedback on progress can take years. The iDXA allows physicians to detect change faster than ever before by offering extremely precise measure of the bone, allowing physicians to track changes that had previously been too minor to detect,” said Hanson.



Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) is used increasingly as a rapid, precise, and accurate method for measurement of regional and total body composition in both clinical and research settings. The total body scan is the fastest growing DXA procedure due to its unique ability to assess a variety of metabolic disorders and their potential impact on skeletal status and body composition. Total body assessment using DXA provides a unique capability of non-invasive measurement of skeletal bone status, as well as lean and fat tissue components including percent fat, lean tissue mass, and the android (waist)/gynoid (hip) ratio.

"iDXA images provide is a substantial improvement in resolution and quality. I am extremely optimistic that this better image quality will improve the confidence with which we can identify vertebral fractures using VFA," Dr. Neil Binkley, University of Wisconsin Osteoporosis Center.

Historically, DXA has just assessed bone, only one part of the overall body wellness picture. iDXA however, takes a three-point assessment - bone, fat and lean tissue - for a comprehensive view of body wellness in a single exam. This allows physicians not only to access an individual's bone mineral density, but also their body composition and fat distribution in the body. Excessive fat distribution in the waist (android) region compared to the hip (gynoid) region, in particular, has been associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Most previous studies of body composition have used methods such as skin-fold thickness, hip and waist circumferences, and waist-to-hip ratio to estimate the pattern of fat distribution. In addition to bone density testing, the technique of DXA as used with the iDXA, has been shown to directly assess the ratio of fat percentage in the waist versus the hip regions.



“The iDXA demonstrates GE’s commitment to developing revolutionary technologies that provide doctors the opportunity to diagnose and manage treatment of an individual’s medical conditions earlier and better,” said Hanson.

ABOUT GE HEALTHCARE

GE Healthcare provides transformational medical technologies that are shaping a new age of patient care. GE Healthcare’s expertise in medical imaging and information technologies, medical diagnostics, patient monitoring and life support systems, disease research, drug discovery, and biopharmaceutical manufacturing technologies is helping physicians detect disease earlier and to tailor personalized treatments for patients. GE Healthcare offers a broad range of products and services that are improving productivity in healthcare and enhancing patient care by enabling healthcare providers to better diagnose and treat cancer, heart disease, neurological diseases, and other conditions.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom, GE Healthcare is a \$15 billion unit of General Electric Company (NYSE: GE). Worldwide, GE Healthcare employs more than 43,000 people committed to serving healthcare professionals and their patients in more than 100 countries. For more information about GE Healthcare, visit our website at www.gehealthcare.com.

Contact
GE Healthcare
Banks Willis
262-548-2905
banks.willis@ge.com