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Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Renowned MRI Expert Alerts Public to New Concerns Possibly Exposing Infants to Superbug Infections

– *Infants Taped to Torn and Contaminated Pads When Undergoing MRI* –

CHICAGO, Illinois – December 2, 2008 – During the third day of the Radiologic Society of North America (RSNA 2008) conference, Chicago, IL, Dr. Peter Rothschild, one of the world's foremost MRI experts, is alerting the public to a common practice that endangers young immunosuppressed patients by exposing them to damaged pads and possible Superbug infections during MRI.

Peter Rothschild M.D. is considered one of the world's foremost MRI experts. He formerly served as Medical Director of the research laboratory at the University of California, San Francisco, where he helped develop the first commercially available Open MRI scanner. He is the editor of the first textbook on Open MRI and the author of the landmark paper "Preventing Infection in MRI: Best Practices for Infection Control in and Around MRI Suites."

Rothschild warns that a common procedure in hospitals and free standing MRI centers is to tape infants and young children directly to the MRI pads, to keep them from moving during their scans. Any movement during an MRI scan will degrade the resulting image, making it difficult or impossible to make the proper diagnosis. This is especially important for babies due to their already small size, thus the need for the best image resolution possible.

Additionally, MRIs are very loud, therefore if the babies are sedated, they must be deeply sedated/anesthetized and monitored constantly to make sure they do not stop breathing. The high magnetic fields in MRI make it difficult and very dangerous to use much of the standard monitoring equipment. Recently a child was killed in an MRI, when an oxygen container was carried into the room, flew into the bore of the magnet and crushed him.

While taping infants eliminates the risks associated with sedation, Rothschild says the poor condition of the MRI pads makes this an extremely dangerous procedure by increasing the risk of infection from prolonged exposure to

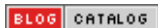


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▼ 2008 (148)

▼ December (2)

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