

## **Radiology—a Starring Role in Health Care**

So, your physician has asked you to have an MRI. Perhaps you have had constant headaches, back pain or a knee injury. Maybe the only imaging you have ever had was a CT scan when you had kidney stones. TRA Medical Imaging offers MRI and CT in Gig Harbor.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) are today's "work horses" in radiology. They are frequently used to study organs, blood vessels, bones, and muscles from a multitude of "slices" or views. Medical imaging technology combined with complex software allows radiologists to obtain exquisite views of a patient's anatomy, to assess injuries or abnormal tissues, and to provide surgeons with an accurate planning tool for surgery.

TRA Medical Imaging, headquartered in Tacoma, has offered MRI and CT at 4700 Pt. Fosdick Drive in Gig Harbor for almost five years. Each TRA radiologist interprets literally thousands of scans a year.

Gig Harbor Medical Director and Musculoskeletal Radiologist Erik Elam, M.D., explains that radiologists are board certified physicians with advanced training in radiology. "Many of TRA's 40 board certified physicians have additional training in subspecialty fields such as musculoskeletal imaging, neuroradiology, breast imaging, nuclear medicine and body imaging. Additionally, two 'hands on' subspecialties are interventional radiology and neurointerventional surgery," he says.

Interventional radiology includes a variety of minimally invasive procedures ranging from the placement of ports and drains, to performing biopsies or treating varicose veins. TRA's two neurointerventional surgeons perform minimally-invasive and life-saving treatment of strokes, aneurysms and other neurological conditions of the brain, head, neck and spine.

What this means for patients who have their imaging at TRA-Gig Harbor is that they are gaining far more than a convenient appointment in a soothing environment.

“On a daily basis, we consult with other TRA physicians regarding complex or unusual cases,” Dr. Elam says. “We study a patient’s related medical history or prior imaging exams, and often talk with his or her referring physician to get the necessary information to provide the most accurate interpretation. Although the patient may never realize it, TRA often provides a second or even a third expert opinion about what is impacting his or her health.”

So, if an MRI or a CT scan is in your future, choose a practice that has become the premier radiology practice in the South Sound—without crossing the bridge. For more information or to schedule an imaging exam, call TRA Medical Imaging at (253) 761-4200 or visit [www.tramedicalimaging.com](http://www.tramedicalimaging.com).