

*how to*

*Not every radiologist is the same.*

# CHOOSE THE BEST RADIOLOGIST

*Overall, subspecialized radiologists are more experienced and better at detecting and diagnosing illnesses so your doctor can provide the most effective treatment for you.*

**Y**our doctor recommends an imaging procedure to help diagnose a medical issue... CT scan... MRI... Ultrasound... But how do you know you're getting the most accurate diagnostic imaging?

Although radiologists are rarely seen by the patient, they play an important role in the overall health care equation. A radiologist is a medical doctor who is specially trained to interpret imaging scans or perform procedures to diagnose or treat your condition. They supply the doctor who referred you with information to guide your treatment or care based on the results of your exam.

However, not every radiologist is the same. Some radiologists

are considered "general radiologists", meaning they will read every type of scan - for every area of the anatomy. Other radiologists are "subspecialized", meaning they are specialist in one area of anatomy, such as musculoskeletal, spine, neuroradiology, head and neck, body and cardiovascular.

The subspecialty approach translates directly into value for patients. If you are referred to have an MRI scan of the brain, you're guaranteed that a radiologist who is well trained in MRI imaging will read your scan. Also, radiologists who practice interventional radiology are not only specialized in body imaging, but they also do all sorts of procedures. ■

## SALINAS VALLEY IMAGING CENTER OFFERS:

- State of the Art CT
- Open MRI
- Ultrasound-4D Imaging
- Diagnostic-Xray
- Mammography
  - Biopsy
  - Stereotactic
  - Breast Ultrasound
- Convenient scheduling
- Same day appointments or within 24 hours
- Convenient parking
- Next business day turnaround on most reports and films
- Immediate follow-up to your physician by the radiologist on significant findings

## A few things to consider

*Most people don't realize they can choose where their medical imaging is performed. Here are some questions to ask your doctor to ensure you receive quality service.*

- What specifically is your physician looking for in the procedure results, and how should you prepare?
- Independent outpatient imaging centers are generally less expensive than hospitals, may offer additional services and tend to be more convenient and personable.
- Does the imaging center offer subspecialized radiology?
- Is there patient literature available about the center and procedure?
- Ask questions about the equipment and the scan itself.

*Quality. It's your choice.*