

PRESS RELEASE

NEW ESAOTE MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING UNIT FOR SPINAL INTERVENTION INSTALLED AT IOM IN CATANIA

This innovative device enables standing diagnostic examinations for a more accurate and objective assessment of the spine and joints.

The new unit is a great addition to the IOM department that specializes in minimally invasive spinal surgery.

Catania/Genoa, July 20th, 2021 - At the **Istituto Oncologico del Mediterraneo (IOM)** in the Viagrande municipality of Catania, Sicily, a **new G-scan Brio unit for "weight-bearing" MRI** has been installed. The unit is **manufactured by Esaote**, a leading Italian company in the biomedical sector, specializing in ultrasound, dedicated MRI, and healthcare IT.

The result of an **exclusive project of the Esaote Group**, this MRI performed under weight-bearing uses an **innovative approach** that increases the accuracy and diagnostic reliability of musculoskeletal applications. This enables an assessment of the **spine and joints even in orthostatism** (standing), for a diagnosis that more closely reflects reality.

It is a particularly effective examination for problems relating to joint biomechanics and instability, the spine, and osteoarticular misalignment.

"Based on the experience gained from the G-scan systems, we have devised an innovative technology, with new ergonomics and cutting-edge acquisition techniques, that allows us to diagnose pathologies that are often invisible in the supine position and are more easily revealed when the patient is standing," says **Massimo Olmi**, MRI Global Marketing Director at Esaote. *"Thanks to this new unit we are further strengthening our presence in an area that has always been very important for our business."*

Esaote's new weight-bearing MRI will be a great addition to the **IOM department that specializes in CT-guided minimally invasive spinal interventions**, headed by Prof. Luigi Manfrè.

"The new MRI is essential for minimally invasive treatment, because it helps us to better identify the pathology and as a result determine the correct treatment," explains **Prof. Luigi Manfrè**. *"The spine is not a static organ, the shape changes depending on the load, whether lying down or standing. This change may also bring about a change in the evidence of a possible pathology based on the patient's position; in fact, for most patients suffering from back pain, the symptomatology is more evident while standing or sitting, rather than lying down, as is the case with conventional MRI examinations. This technology will be crucial to our work and to the projects we are working on, including a research project on minimally invasive MRI-guided spinal intervention, the true future of these interventions and the first project ever in this area."*

In addition to herniated discs, the pathologies that can benefit today from minimally invasive treatments include all the degenerative conditions of the spine, from spondylolisthesis to osteoporotic fractures, from common "back pain" to sciatica attacks, through to the treatment of cancerous pathologies of the spine.

IOM:

The Istituto Oncologico del Mediterraneo (IOM) is a specialist facility with qualified professionals and advanced equipment offering patients full expert care. IOM is one of the high specialty departments in Sicily. IOM is a department where professionals with different specialties can discuss treatments and clinical pathways. In addition, physicians and researchers work in synergy at IOM with the ultimate objective of translating research into clinical practice in order to provide patients with the best cancer care. www.grupposamed.com

Esaote S.p.A.:

The Esaote Group is a leader in the biomedical equipment sector, in particular in the areas of ultrasound, dedicated MRI, and software for managing the diagnostic process. The company currently employs approximately 1,180 people. With headquarters in Genoa and Florence and its own production and research units in Italy and the Netherlands, Esaote is present in 100 countries worldwide. www.esaote.com

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