



## Research Alert:

### CardiArc SPECT System Up for Clinical Trials

Independent research institutions will put the CardiArc SPECT system from CardiArc Inc, Lubbock, Tex, to the test. Both Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, and Emory University, Atlanta, will evaluate the performance and design of the cardiovascular camera in clinical settings. The unit is designed specifically for cardiac imaging, particularly for coronary artery disease detection.

SPECT, or single photon emission computed tomography, noninvasively creates 3D images that show the blood flow and function of major organs, such as the heart. "Our main goal is looking at comparisons with regular patients on conventional types of SPECT imaging when looking for coronary artery disease," said Terry Garner, vice president for sales and marketing for CardiArc Inc.

The research programs will explore how the CardiArc system stacks up to other SPECT systems. Cleveland Clinic will compare the scans of 100 patients who will be scanned by both the CardiArc SPECT system and the facility's current clinical SPECT machine. Researchers also will compile a database of CardiArc scans that show diseased hearts as well as normal hearts both at rest and under stress. Emory University will perform similar research with a pool of 200 patients.

Both trials are expected to be completed within 6 months. "They're really designed to show, within a clinical situation, how well does the system perform and how fast can you image?" said Garner. He adds that a faster conventional SPECT system may fall within the 12- to 15-minute range, while the CardiArc SPECT system takes approximately 3 minutes.

The CardiArc SPECT is an ultrahigh-resolution, high-contrast, upright SPECT imaging system. "We're talking about SPECT spatial resolutions in the same realm or even better than what PET does," noted Garner. "So, we're talking about resolutions of down to 2 mm or 3 mm, that range."

Once the results from the research programs are in, CardiArc will investigate broader applications for its SPECT system including the role it can play in preventing heart failure. For more information, visit [www.cardiarc.com](http://www.cardiarc.com).

—Ann H. Carlson