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**Woodland Heights Medical Center Offers CT Enterography:
*New Advanced Technology for Evaluation of Inflammatory Bowel Disease***

Lufkin, TX, July 2, 2009 – Woodland Heights Medical Center is proud to now offer CT Enterography, an advanced diagnostic tool used to evaluate small bowel disorders. Using non-invasive CT scanning with oral contrast, CT Enterography can provide detailed images of the small bowel. Woodland Heights Medical Center is the first in our area to offer this advanced technology, which is quickly becoming the first-line modality for the evaluation of suspected inflammatory bowel disease.

The small bowel, or intestine, measures approximately 22 feet in length in the average adult. When a person suffers from inflammatory bowel disease, the intestines swell causing abdominal pain, diarrhea and sometimes rectal bleeding. Prior to CT Enterography, diagnosis of small bowel disorder was done using X-ray and a thick, chalky drink. Often, studies would take 2 to 3 hours, which is the length of time it took for the oral contrast to travel through the system. While CT Enterography also uses an orally consumed liquid contrast, the study is significantly quicker, about 1 hour, and provides a more detailed image of the intestines.

“The CT Enterography provides a much clearer and more detailed image of the small bowels than an X-ray study, which makes it easier to provide an accurate diagnosis,” said David Handley, M.D., Radiologist at Woodland Heights Medical Center. “It also allows us to see the surrounding solid organs, which is helpful as a screening tool for nonspecific abdominal pain.”

According to a recent study of more than 750 cases, CT Enterography has several advantages over traditional examination: (1) it shows the entire thickness of the bowel wall, (2) it provides detailed images of the entire small intestine, and (3) it permits evaluation of surrounding mesentery and fat tissues.

“Overall, this is a much better and more complete test, and it’s easier on the patient,” said Rebecca Petty, Director of Radiology at Woodland Heights Medical Center. “Although the patient still needs to drink barium, it is a significantly faster study than an X-ray study.”

If you suspect inflammatory bowel disease, talk with your family physician about CT Enterography. For more information about Woodland Heights Medical Center, visit www.woodlandheights.net.

About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin's first hospital. Now, nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in key medical and surgical areas including cardiology, pulmonology, neurology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine/rehabilitation, vascular surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Woodland Heights also offers a full range of outpatient diagnostic services including advanced imaging, laboratory, outpatient surgery and emergency services. Through its Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Heights offers cardiac rehabilitation, stroke recovery and physical and occupational rehabilitation. Combining modern facilities, leading technology, an exceptional staff and a commitment to the communities it serves, Woodland Heights Medical Center remains at the forefront of quality health care in Deep East Texas.

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