

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Ryan Lieber  
561-308-9830

[ryan.lieber@tenethealth.com](mailto:ryan.lieber@tenethealth.com)

**WEST BOCA MEDICAL CENTER PROVIDES NEW IMAGING TEST TO  
MORE ACCURATELY DIAGNOSE PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

*West Boca Medical Center acquires the DaTscan™- the only FDA-approved imaging agent for  
assessment of movement disorders*

**BOCA RATON, Fla. (October 17, 2011)**— West Boca Medical Center is among the few hospitals in south Florida to offer the DaTscan™, a new diagnostic imaging technique that allows physicians to differentiate Parkinson's Disease from other movement disorders. The DaTscan™ is the only FDA-approved imaging agent for assessment of movement disorders such as Parkinson's Disease.

“The DaTscan™ is a critical step in our ability to accurately diagnose and treat movement disorders like Parkinson's Disease early, and often earlier diagnosis can mean more effective treatments,” said Mitch Feldman, CEO. “Prior to this technology, physicians had to rely on clinical assessment alone to assess for movement disorders; now, physicians can use the DaTscan™ to clinically identify patients who have loss of dopamine, the major chemical responsible for the symptoms of movement disorders.”

Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease are attributed to a decrease in dopamine in the brain, which causes muscle tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with movement and balance. Early in the disease when symptoms are slight, it is often difficult for physicians to differentiate between movement disorders based on clinical examination alone.

The DaTscan, developed by GE Healthcare, is a substance that detects dopamine transporters in the brain. A patient is injected with the contrast agent and then undergoes a specialized scan. The scan captures detailed pictures of the brain's dopamine system and shows the presence of dopamine transporters. In patients with Parkinson's Disease or another parkinsonian syndrome, the scans show extremely low dopamine levels.

“We are proud to bring the DaTscan to our patients and local community, as it will support our doctors in providing the right diagnostic answers to patients, which will influence the most appropriate long term treatment of diseases like Parkinson’s Disease and offer patients the best possible clinical outcomes, continued Feldman.”

For more information about West Boca Medical Center’s neurology and diagnostic imaging services, please visit the hospital’s website at [www.westbocamedctr.com](http://www.westbocamedctr.com) or call 561-488-8000.

### **About West Boca Medical Center**

West Boca Medical Center, part of Tenet South Florida, is a 195-bed acute care hospital located at 21644 State Road 7 in Boca Raton, Florida. West Boca Medical Center has been serving the medical and healthcare needs of its community and surrounding areas for over 20 years.

West Boca Medical Center offers a broad array of services, including general medical and surgical care, orthopedics and sports medicine, a robotic surgery program offering minimally invasive surgery for gynecological, urological and general surgical procedures, a state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging center featuring open MRI and digital mammography, cardiac and surgical intensive care, outpatient surgery services, 24-hour emergency services for adults and children, diabetes education, a cystic fibrosis program for adults and children, outpatient rehabilitation services and a specialized sleep diagnostic center with a dedicated lab for infants and pediatrics as well as adults. West Boca Medical Center is also a Certified Primary Stroke Center, and received the 2010 American Stroke Association/American Heart Association’s *Get With The Guidelines*-Stroke Bronze Performance Achievement Award, and the *Get With The Guidelines*–Heart Failure Silver Performance Achievement Award.

The hospital also offers several specialties, including a level III neonatal intensive care unit, the BirthCare Pavilion, a pediatric unit and a pediatric intensive care unit. It is also a recipient of the HealthGrades Maternity Care Excellence Award five years in a row (2006-2011). In addition, HealthGrades has ranked West Boca’s maternity program among the top 5% five percent in the nation for four years in a row (2007-2011).

The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation’s oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. For more information about West Boca Medical Center or for physician referral, call 866-904-WBMC (9262) or visit the website at [www.westbocamedctr.com](http://www.westbocamedctr.com).

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