configured to capture a first alignment image of a subject positioned generally co-axially with the rotation axis. The first alignment image is displayed on the first monitor. In the home position the screen is positioned between the imaging camera and the first monitor, wherein a first opening is defined in the screen, and wherein the first opening is aligned with the first monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position. In a preferred embodiment, the first monitor includes alignment markings thereon that include at least one of a head alignment circle, centering lines or a shoulder alignment line. Preferably, the rotating unit includes a first horizontal boom having a first end, a second end, and a middle section. A first arm depends downwardly from the first end of the first horizontal boom and the imaging camera is positioned on the first vertical arm. The screen depends downwardly from the second end of the first horizontal boom. In a preferred embodiment, the imaging system includes second horizontal boom. The first horizontal boom is positioned below the second horizontal boom and is adapted to rotate with respect to the second horizontal boom about the rotation axis.

[0005] In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention there is provided a method that includes obtaining an imaging system that includes a rotating unit that includes an imaging camera, wherein the rotating unit defines a rotation axis and is rotatable between a home position and a finish position, positioning an alignment camera that is directed generally downwardly generally co-axially with the rotation axis, positioning a subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view a first alignment image captured by the alignment camera on a first monitor, aligning the subject, and rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a first scan with the imaging camera at a first time to capture a first video image, wherein in the home position the screen is positioned between the imaging camera and the first monitor, wherein a first opening is defined in the screen, and wherein the first opening is aligned

with the first monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position. In a preferred embodiment, the rotating unit includes a screen that rotates opposite the imaging camera.

[0006] In a preferred embodiment, in the home position the screen is positioned between the imaging camera and the first monitor and a first opening is defined in the screen. The first opening is aligned with the first monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position. Preferably, the imaging system includes a second monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, and the second monitor is positioned above the first monitor. The screen includes a second opening defined therein, and the second opening is aligned with the second monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position. In a preferred embodiment, the method further includes positioning the subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view the first alignment image on the second monitor, aligning the subject, and rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a second scan with the imaging camera.

[0007] In a preferred embodiment, the imaging system includes a third monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, and the third monitor is positioned above the first monitor. The screen includes a third opening defined therein, and the third opening is aligned with the third monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position. In a preferred embodiment, the method further includes positioning the subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view the first alignment image on the third monitor, aligning the subject, and rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a third scan with the imaging camera.

[0008] In a preferred embodiment, the method further includes positioning the subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view a second alignment image captured by the alignment camera on the first monitor, aligning the subject, and rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a second scan at a second time

with the imaging camera to provide a second video image. Preferably, the method includes merging the first video image and the second video image to provide a merged video image that shows at least a portion of the first scan adjacent at least a portion of the second scan.

[0009] In accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention there is provided an imaging system that includes a rotating unit that includes a first horizontal

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An imaging system comprising:

a rotating unit that includes an imaging camera, wherein the rotating unit is rotatable between a home position and a finish position about a rotation axis such that the imaging camera can capture a first scan,

an alignment camera directed generally downwardly, wherein the alignment camera is configured to capture a first alignment image of a subject positioned generally co-axially with the rotation axis, and

at least a first monitor on which the first alignment image is displayed,

wherein in the home position the screen is positioned between the imaging camera and the first monitor, wherein a first opening is defined in the screen, and wherein the first opening is aligned with the first monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

2. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the alignment camera is generally co-axial with the rotation axis.

3. The imaging system of claim 2 wherein the rotating unit includes a screen that rotates opposite of the imaging camera.

4. The imaging system of claim 1 further comprising a second monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, wherein the second monitor is positioned above the first monitor, and wherein the screen includes a second opening defined therein, and wherein the second opening is aligned with the second monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

5. The imaging system of claim 4 further comprising a third monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, wherein the third monitor is positioned below the first monitor, and wherein the screen includes a third opening defined therein, and wherein the third opening is aligned with the third monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

6. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the first monitor includes alignment markings thereon that include at least one of a head alignment circle, centering lines or a shoulder alignment line.

7. The imaging system of claim 5 wherein the first, second and third monitors each include alignment markings thereon that include at least one of a head alignment circle, centering lines or a shoulder alignment line.

8. The imaging system of claim 1 wherein the rotating unit includes a first horizontal boom having a first end, a second end, and a middle section, wherein a first arm depends downwardly from the first end of the first horizontal boom, wherein the imaging camera is positioned on the first vertical arm, and wherein the screen depends downwardly from the second end of the first horizontal boom.

9. The imaging system of claim 8 further comprising a second horizontal boom, wherein the first horizontal boom is positioned below the second horizontal boom and is adapted to rotate with respect to the second horizontal boom about the rotation axis.

10. A method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining an imaging system that includes a rotating unit having an imaging camera, wherein the rotating unit defines a rotation axis and is rotatable between a home position and a finish position,

(b) positioning an alignment camera generally co-axially with the rotation axis, wherein the alignment camera is directed generally downwardly,

(c) positioning a subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view a first alignment image captured by the alignment camera on a first monitor,

(d) aligning the subject, and

(e) rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a first scan with the imaging camera at a first time to capture a first video image, wherein in the

home position the screen is positioned between the imaging camera and the first monitor, wherein a first opening is defined in the screen, and wherein the first opening is aligned with the first monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the rotating unit includes a screen that rotates opposite the imaging camera.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the imaging system further comprises a second monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, wherein the second monitor is positioned above the first monitor, and wherein the screen includes a second opening defined therein, and wherein the second opening is aligned with the second monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

positioning the subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view the first alignment image on the second monitor,

aligning the subject, and

rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a second scan with the imaging camera.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the imaging system further comprises a third monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, wherein the third monitor is positioned below the first monitor, and wherein the screen includes a third opening defined therein, and wherein the third opening is aligned with the third monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

positioning the subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view the first alignment image on the third monitor,

aligning the subject, and

rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a third scan with the imaging camera.

16. The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

positioning the subject below the alignment camera such that the subject can view a second alignment image captured by the alignment camera on the first monitor,

aligning the subject, and

rotating the rotating unit from the home position to the finish position and taking a second scan at a second time with the imaging camera to provide a second video image.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of merging the first video image and the second video image to provide a merged video image that shows at least a portion of the first scan adjacent at least a portion of the second scan.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the first, second and third monitors each include alignment markings thereon that include at least one of a head alignment circle, centering lines or a shoulder alignment line.

19. An imaging system comprising:

a rotating unit that includes a first horizontal beam that rotates about a rotation axis, wherein the first horizontal beam has first and second opposite ends and includes an imaging camera depending downwardly from the first end and a screen depending downwardly from the second end such that it rotates opposite of the imaging camera, wherein the imaging camera is rotatable about the rotation axis between a home position and a finish position,

an alignment camera positioned below the first horizontal beam and directed generally downwardly, wherein the alignment camera is generally co-axial with the rotation axis and is configured to capture a first alignment image of a subject positioned generally co-axially with the rotation axis, and

at least a first monitor on which the first alignment image is displayed, wherein in the home position the screen is positioned between the imaging camera and the first monitor, wherein a first opening is defined in the screen, and wherein the first opening is aligned with the first monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

20. The imaging system of claim 19 further comprising a second monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, wherein the second monitor is positioned above the first monitor, and wherein the screen includes a second opening defined therein, and wherein the second opening is aligned with the second monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

21. The imaging system of claim 20 further comprising a third monitor on which the first alignment image can be viewed, wherein the third monitor is positioned below the first monitor, and wherein the screen includes a third opening defined therein, and wherein the third opening is aligned with the third monitor when the rotating unit is in the home position.

22. The imaging system of claim 19 wherein the first monitor includes alignment markings thereon that include at least one of a head alignment circle, centering lines or a shoulder alignment line.

23. The imaging system of claim 21 wherein the first, second and third monitors each include alignment markings thereon that include at least one of a head alignment circle, centering lines or a shoulder alignment line.

24. The imaging system of claim 19 further comprising a second horizontal beam that includes first and second opposite ends, wherein the first end is adapted to be secured to a wall, and wherein the first horizontal beam is rotatably connected to the second end.

25. The imaging system of claim 19 wherein the screen is curved.

26. The imaging system of claim 25 wherein the screen includes a color chart.