

Media Advisory

September 15, 2009

New technology allows KGH doctors to detect breast cancer earlier

A new, leading-edge breast imaging system – recently acquired for free by Kingston General Hospital – has given doctors the ability to better diagnose patients with breast cancer.

Director of Imaging at KGH Karen Pearson says the new technology takes clearer, sharper images and is able to diagnose breast cancer earlier. It will save patients from having to make a trip to Toronto.

“The big benefit is we just received a new product that we never thought we’d be able to get,” Pearson said. “Essentially, Kingston General Hospital was able to get this leading-edge imaging technology worth more than \$200,000 for free.”

Several companies – Health Technology Exchange, Sentinelle Medical and Suros – provided the technology at a discount and the Ministry of Research and Innovation provided a grant to help cover costs.

KGH started applying just before Christmas and learned they had been awarded the new technology in early February. The breast imaging system has been in use since the end of May.

Sentinelle's new breast imaging system, the Vanguard System for Siemens' magnetic resonance (MR) units, allows the cancer clinic to use innovative MR imaging technology to do breast scans, and to simultaneously guide and do breast biopsies. This is a new approach to diagnose and manage breast cancer.

"The new system gives us superior images from breast scans and, at the same time, we can do image-guided biopsies. This higher and value-added performance has allowed us to expand the capabilities of our breast cancer program to the benefit of our patients," states Dr. Eric Sauerbrei, Director of Breast Imaging at Hotel Dieu Hospital and Kingston General Hospital.

NOTE TO PHOTO EDITORS: A photo accompanying this release is available on the CNW Photo Network and archived at <http://photos.newswire.ca>. Additional archived images are also available on the CNW Photo Archive website at <http://photos.newswire.ca>. Images are free to accredited members of the media.

Affiliated with Queen's University, Kingston General Hospital is a 456-bed specialized teaching and research hospital that serves more than 500,000 people in southeastern Ontario and is the community hospital for the Kingston area. KGH provides an array of specialized acute and ambulatory clinical services including trauma, cardiac, stroke, pediatric, perinatal, end stage renal and stem cell transplants. Home to the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario, KGH is dedicated to compassionate, high quality health care in a dynamic academic research environment. It features a robust research program and provides hands-on skill training for close to 1,900 health-care students annually. For more information, visit the web site at <http://www.kgh.on.ca> .

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