

News Release

10 November 2010

Hospital unveils new MRI scanner

Patients at Dorset County Hospital are now benefitting from the very latest in MRI scanner technology.

The hospital has replaced its aging MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner with a new £1million Tesla Siemens Avanto model which will enable radiologists to view much higher quality diagnostic images and offer a far wider range of tests.

MR imaging uses a powerful magnetic field, radio frequency pulses and a computer to produce detailed pictures of organs, soft tissues, bone and virtually all other internal body structures. MRI does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays).

Principal Superintendent Radiographer at the hospital Sue Green said the new scanner would make an enormous difference to patients.

“The clarity of the new images is far superior to the old scanner and means that we can do scans here that previously patients had to travel elsewhere for,” she said.

“It also means that in time we can develop MRI in other areas like small bowel imaging, cardiac studies and whole body imaging.

“Other benefits include shorter and faster scan times for some examinations and less claustrophobic feelings for patients as the new scanner has a wider and shorter tunnel and is situated in a brighter, more spacious room.”

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PHOTO: Pictured working with the new scanner are, from left to right, Siemens Applications Specialist Harriet Thompson, Clinical Lead for CT Joyce Perry and Consultant Radiologist Dr Peter Taylor.

For more information or to arrange interview, photo and filming opportunities please contact Communications Manager Susie Palmer on 01305 254683, susie.palmer@dchft.nhs.uk (Mon to Wed) or the Chief Executive's Office on 01305 254645 (Thurs and Fri).