

Lahey Clinic First in the Nation with Portable CT Scanner

Lahey Clinic is the first hospital in the nation to purchase a portable computed tomography (CT) scanner that allows physicians to conduct brain scans on critically ill patients without ever moving them.

The portable CT scanner, the CereTom, gives physicians quick access, particularly in cases of brain trauma or stroke, where time is critical in saving a patient's life or in situations where moving the patient could be fatal.



Patrick Noonan, Jr., MD, uses the CereTom portable CT scanner.

"This is a lifesaver," said **Patrick T. Noonan, Jr., MD**, Diagnostic Radiology. "So often it's difficult to get images of seriously ill patients because they are too sick to move. This is already giving us a tremendous advantage in caring for our sickest patients."

And that was the mission of the group at NeuroLogica in Danvers, Mass., which developed the technology for the CereTom. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the portable CT scanner for use last year.

Traditional CT scanners weigh as much as 9,000 pounds and require a dedicated power supply and cooling system. The engineers at NeuroLogica were able to shrink those systems, making them the perfect size for patients in emergency departments, intensive care units and operating rooms.

The portable CT scanner is also easy to use. The machine delivers the same resolution as bigger machines and is light enough to be pushed by one technician. "We have been waiting for this," said **Anna K. Chacko, MD**, chair, Diagnostic Radiology. "I know the neurologists will rest easier knowing there is a way to treat patients faster without any risky moves."

Meanwhile, the Radiology Department has also recently purchased a dental X-ray unit to aid in visualizing facial and jaw injuries and has added a third digital mammography system to the Breast Imaging section of the department.

Heart Failure Calendar Contest Winners

A group of Burlington fourth graders celebrated their Valentine's Day at a reception honoring the winners of the annual Healthy Hearts for Heart Failure Calendar Contest hosted by the Heart Failure Clinic. The students enjoyed cookies, fruit and juice while each was presented with a special gift package from Long's Jewelers and Barnes and Noble and a copy of the calendar.

Heart failure affects nearly 5 million Americans and accounts for approximately 280,000 deaths, 1 million hospitalizations and \$35 million in health care costs annually. Heart failure develops when a damaged heart can no longer pump enough blood to meet the demands of vital organs. Symptoms include labored breathing, fluid accumulation (especially in the legs) and fatigue. Although there is no cure for heart failure, treatment can help control symptoms and extend patients' lives.

In order to improve patient compliance, each year the Heart Failure Clinic sponsors a contest for the design of a calendar. Local students from the Fox Hill, Memorial, Pine Glen and Francis Wyman schools are given a list of

lifestyle changes for heart failure patients, and each draws a picture to help inspire and motivate compliance. The Clinic's patients vote on their favorite drawings, and they are incorporated into a calendar. The Graphic Communications Technology Department at Minuteman Science-Technology High School in Lexington prints the calendars, using funds from a Lahey Clinic grant

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