

New CT machine offers more advanced scans

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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A new computerized tomography scanner at Gothenburg Memorial Hospital is cutting edge.

“You could drive within a 300-mile radius and not find a better scanner,” said radiographer Chris Graham who performs CT scans and recently spent a week in North Carolina learning about the scanner and new software.

The equipment was installed at GMH the second week of December.

Basically, a CT scan uses a computer that takes data from several X-ray images of structures inside a body and changes them into pictures on a monitor.

CT scans are images of thin slices through the body.

Graham explained that the new CT scan takes 64, instead of the 16 cuts as did the previous machine, and offers a better and more detailed image.

“The scan time is faster,” he said. “And it’s safer for the patient because it decreases exposure time to radiation.”

Graham said the equipment also has more capabilities than the previous CT scanner.

For example, he said the software can remove bone in an image to better examine vessels.

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In addition, Graham said less contrast or dye is injected to better visualize organs and vessels.

Once patients undergo CT procedures at GMH, the scans are sent to Advanced Medical Imaging in Lincoln where they are read by a radiologist.

The installation of the new equipment, he said, achieves another goal of the hospital which is to provide great patient care.

“We’re moving forward and that’s what this machine will do,” Graham said.

GMH chief executive operating officer Mick Brant said the cost of the Siemens 64-slice CT scanner and Medrad Contrast Injection System is \$438,029.

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