

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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3D Ultrasound is Coming to Speare

PLYMOUTH, N.H. — Speare Memorial Hospital has announced it is acquiring the iU22 ultrasound system from Philips Medical Systems, providing advanced diagnostic imaging capabilities and featuring 4D (or real-time 3D) imaging technology that allows patients to view the fetus and internal organs as if they were being held in their hands.

Because it can be used in the most delicate conditions without major side effects, ultrasound has become one of the most popular diagnostic methods among patients and physicians. Ultrasound uses high-frequency sound waves to produce moving images of the body's internal soft tissue structures. It provides a safe, fast and relatively painless means of diagnostic imaging on an outpatient basis. The iU22 system's powerful imaging capabilities support a variety of common exams, including vascular, thyroid, abdominal, pelvic and testicular exams. It also offers advanced imaging capabilities specifically beneficial in the evaluation of breast masses.



“Ultrasound imaging is hugely beneficial because it is a relatively low cost and non-invasive way to look inside the body,” says Linda Nestor, director of radiology at Speare. “With the new Philips system, we are acquiring an extremely high level of diagnostic information and can provide answers for our patients more quickly and easily. Plus, results from the ultrasound exam often reduce the need for more invasive procedures.”

Early clinical use by registered diagnostic medical sonographers indicates that the Philips iU22 intelligent ultrasound system has the potential to:

- Make ultrasound exams much faster.
- Help patients and their physician better visualize and understand their condition.
- Help identify the nature of suspicious breast lesions sooner utilizing new, higher resolution, higher frequency transducers.
- Enhance diagnostic capability, thus reducing or eliminating the need for more expensive or invasive tests and procedures.
- Provide clearer ultrasound images and better diagnostics, especially in difficult-to-image patients.

- Guide catheters and needles in 3D space without radiation exposure.

In addition to the system's imaging and diagnostic features, the iU22 is also designed to enhance the sonographer's experience. It is better ergonomically thanks to the machine's mobility, light probes, and the ability adapt to the sonographer's exam needs, making their job faster, easier, and less physically taxing.

"Because of the high volume of exams and physical nature of ultrasound work, sonographers can be affected by repetitive motion strain or injury," says SMH Sonographer Jane Kraemer, RDMS. "We're very pleased to see that this concern has been successfully addressed with our new iU22 system."

For more information about the new ultrasound system, or other x-ray services at Speare, call the Radiology Department at (603) 238-2232. Speare Memorial Hospital is a 24-hour, acute care, non-profit community hospital and health care provider serving Plymouth and the communities of central New Hampshire for more than a century. Visit online at www.spearehospital.com and join us on Facebook.

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