



YOUR Diagnostic Imaging PROGRAM

MRI UPDATE

In 2005, our Diagnostic Imaging Program committed to reducing wait times for procedures, guaranteed turnaround times for medical imaging reports, and enhance overall satisfaction with our program services.

Earlier this year, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) published a community report on Diagnostic Services, with information on patient loads, capacity, wait times and turnaround times. We declared our intent to ensure that the wait times for elective diagnostic procedures would be drastically reduced in 2005. This confirmed our commitment to the Ontario Wait Time Strategy, an initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Health, to reduce wait times and improve access to five major services of health care, one of which focuses on CT and MRI procedures across Ontario.

Our major project this year in Diagnostic Imaging has been the purchase and installation of a second state-of-the-art MRI. To accommodate the new MRI, TBRHSC undertook a significant renovation project to build a new MRI suite, as well as enhanced workspaces for our radiologists and clinical staff. These renovations will facilitate better workflow and enable our diagnostic imaging staff to offer better patient care. The installation of a second MRI will more than double our diagnostic capacity by expanding operating hours, to further reduce the wait and turnaround times and address the growing need for such procedures.

TBRHSC has been fortunate to receive funding for the new MRI and installation through both the Ministry of Health's Diagnostic Equipment Replacement Fund, which contributed \$2.3 million to the purchase of the Siemens equipment, and through the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation 'Reduce the Wait' Campaign, which has committed more than \$1 million to the project.

Northwestern Ontario has some unique healthcare challenges that include access to care, cultural challenges and geographic boundaries. TBRHSC is committed to focusing on patient care. As a part of the Diagnostic Imaging plan in 2005, our new MRI suite enables us to provide an additional 4,000 to 5,000 hours per year.

PATIENT CARE IS OUR FOCUS

The Ontario Wait Time Strategy, through its commitment to provincial wait reduction targets, provided an opportunity for our facility to lobby for a second MRI. Our MRI team has worked tremendously hard to ensure that we met those guidelines for operating hours and patient volumes. Their business proposal resulted in the funding of our new state of the art Siemens MRI and the necessary operating dollars to improve our wait and turnaround times.

— *Ron Saddington,
President & CEO,
Thunder Bay
Regional Health
Sciences Centre*

We expanded our operating hours on the existing MRI to accommodate the large patient volumes waiting for those MRI procedures, and successfully proved the great need for the enhanced service in Northwestern Ontario. This second MRI will allow us to further expand our operating hours by 4,000 to 5,000 this year.

— *Michael Power,
Vice President,
Regional Cancer &
Diagnostic Services*



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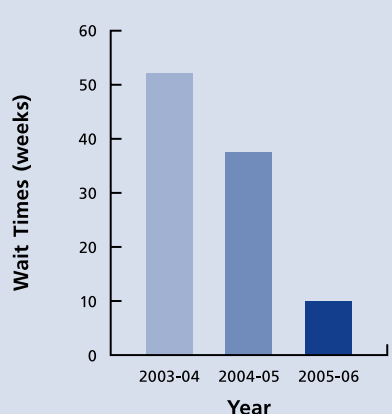


Back row, left to right:
Tom Sinfeld, Shelby Haglund,
Aimée Thivierge, Angela Anttila.

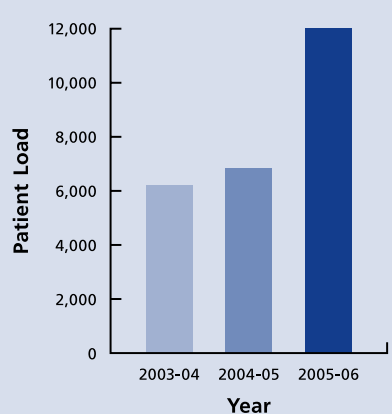
Front row, left to right:
Doug Cates, Toni Todesco,
Jane MacFayden, Linda Guerard.

Missing from photo:
Wayne Bellinger, Chryssy Maxwell,
Stacey Larrett, John Kiiskila

MRI WAIT TIMES



MRI PATIENT LOAD



The new Siemens Avanto Magnetic Resonance Imaging Equipment incorporates the latest innovative technology. This new system provides:

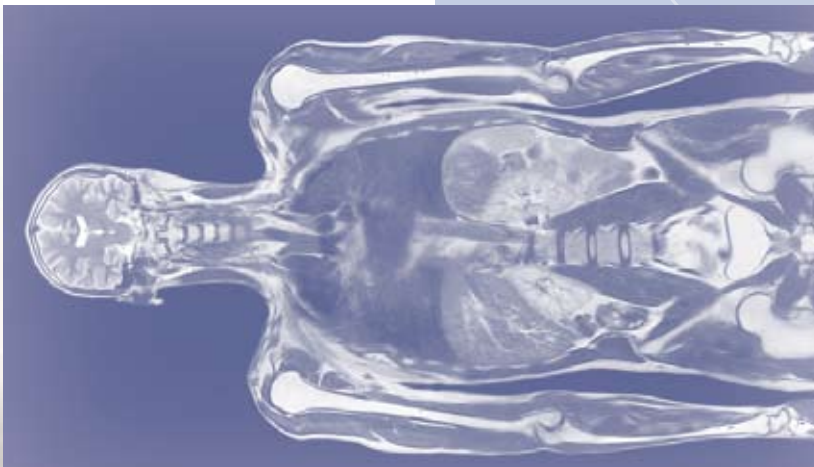
- Higher and more in-depth resolution for imaging
- Whole body functionality and workflow — no patient repositioning, no coil changes, no manual table operation
- Aids the physician in fast and precise evaluation
- Up to 97% noise reduction
- Allows for software interfaces for specific diseases like cancer and cardiac
- Significantly more comfortable table and spacious, accommodating up to 400lbs
- Shorter exam times
- Superb image quality
- Lengthened operating hours, allowing for more patient procedures and reduced wait and turnaround times

OUR MRI TEAM

Our MRI team has been working around the clock to prepare for the addition of our second MRI at TBRHSC. Their hard work and dedication over the last nine months secured our position to receive funding for a new MRI from the province. They have been the driving force behind the wait time reductions, and continue to work to ensure that TBRHSC continues to grow its state-of-the-art healthcare system.



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