



Stars Appeal CT Scanner Campaign

Year One Report

Thanks to everyone who so generously supported our Stars Appeal CT Scanner Campaign, Salisbury District Hospital's second CT scanner became operational in November 2014. As a result of donations received after the initial target had been reached, which included a large grant from a local charitable trust, we were also able to significantly upgrade our existing CT scanner. This means we now have two state-of-the-art CT scanners available for local people.

The new scanners have had measurable benefits to patients, both from the new technology they provide, the number of patients that can be scanned and reduced waiting times. In the first year alone, over 14,000 local people have benefited from the many improvements in service the scanners have enabled us to introduce. The advantages of these wonderful new machines are being felt far and wide - here are just some examples:

- **Waiting times:** Waiting times for all types of CT have been significantly reduced despite an increase in the number of patients needing a scan. As a result, we are consistently outperforming the national six week target for general diagnostics, with the vast majority of patients being scanned within four weeks, and many much sooner. Waiting times for patients already in hospital have also improved significantly and we are now able to see over 80% of these patients within 12 hours. This is again ahead of national guidelines which cite same day imaging for inpatients as gold standard.
- **Stroke Care:** Earlier this year, thanks to the new CT scanners, our department achieved a score of A in the Sentinal Stroke National Audit Programme, recognising rapid access to CT for stroke patients. Rapid access to CT scan of the brain is essential in stroke imaging to show which part of the brain has been damaged, and whether the damage was caused by a clot or a bleed. It is only then that a decision can be made on whether the patient would benefit from thrombolysis (clot busting drugs).
- **Emergency Patients:** We are now able to provide an even better service to patients in our Emergency Department. With increased capacity we can image these patients directly, often avoiding the need for admission and significant waits for diagnostics.
- **New diagnostic techniques:** The technology the new scanners provide has resulted in a significant change in the way we perform diagnostics. For example, traditional examination of the bowel (barium enema) has now been replaced by CT Colonography - a study using CT scanning to evaluate the bowel. Once multicentre trials had been published showing the benefits to patients we were able to roll out this test in a very short period of time, as the second scanner provided the capacity to do this. Over 800 local people a year are benefitting from this new technique.
- **Cancer Patients:** Waits for cancer patients are now minimal. All are scanned within the two week target, with most seen significantly faster and some 'same day' thanks to the new direct access cancer clinics the new scanners have enabled us to implement.
- **Cardiac Care:** The new scanners are state-of-the-art multi-slice scanners. One of the benefits this affords is that it enables us to image the arteries in the heart, allowing us to investigate chest pain using a technique called CT Coronary Angiography. Previously, patients had to travel to other hospitals to have this test, which we are now introducing in Salisbury. This has many benefits to patients such as reduced travel time and the convenience of having all their tests carried out at their local hospital where they are familiar with staff and surroundings.



*Dr Lucy Bushby, Lead Radiologist,
with one of the two new CT scanners*

These are just a few examples of how the new scanners have enabled us to improve patient experience, minimise waits and develop a state-of-the-art service for the benefit of people living in south Wiltshire, north and east Dorset and west Hampshire.

On behalf of my team, and all those who are benefiting from your generous support, thank you for making all of this possible.

Lucy Bushby

Dr Lucy Bushby
Lead Radiologist

Feedback from Consultants who refer patients for CT scans



Miss Helen Chave

"Much of my work involves helping people with bowel cancer. Thanks to the generous supporters of the CT Scanner Campaign, we can now offer quicker diagnosis, with faster treatment resulting in shorter hospital stays. My patients often tell me that not knowing if their cancer has spread is one of the hardest things for them. The new scanners have reduced this time of uncertainty and, as a result, lessened the stress and worry people experience at this difficult time."

Miss Helen Chave
Consultant Colorectal Surgeon



Dr Neil Robinson

"The installation and go-live of the new CT scanners has improved access to CT and has meant that patients with "time critical" emergencies (for example, stroke, major trauma, head injury, ruptured aortic aneurysm and obstructed kidney) are getting their diagnostic imaging more quickly. Taking major trauma and stroke as an example, Salisbury is now a top performer in the region for 'time to CT'. The value of the new CT scanners cannot be underestimated. The Emergency Department will always be indebted to the myriad of donors who made their acquisition possible."

Dr Neil Robinson
Consultant in Emergency Medicine



Dr David Walters

"The second CT scanner enables us to scan patients with suspected stroke more quickly. Time is brain and it also means that patients have an accurate diagnosis of their problem almost immediately. Speed is therefore essential in stroke management and with two scanners patients do not have to wait. In addition, having the second scanner has ensured that there is always one in operation and we do not have to transfer patients to other hospitals to get a scan. In short, the new scanners have greatly enhanced stroke care and my team and I are hugely grateful to all those who so generously contributed towards them."

Dr David Walters
Stroke Consultant



Miss Melissa Davies

"The new CT scanners have helped the Urology Department enormously. We now have dedicated slots for patients who present to the Accident and Emergency Department with possible kidney stones. Previously they would have required admission to hospital for other tests. The scanners are very accurate at diagnosing kidney stones and the increased availability of scans has led to better treatment for patients and a reduction in the time they need to spend in hospital. All of the team here extend our gratitude to everyone who supports our charity, the Stars Appeal."

Miss Melissa Davies
Urology Consultant



Dr Carl Taylor

"The new scanners are easier to access, use the latest technology and are quicker. This is so much better for children who are often worried and frightened and importantly it involves less irradiation. Basically a big thank you from all of us who care for children."

Dr Carl Taylor
Consultant Paediatrician



Dr Tamara Everington

"Our haematology patients have some of the highest scan utilisation of any group of patients in the hospital due to the need for surveillance through chemotherapy treatment. The new CT Scanners have made the most tremendous difference to haematology patients who are having investigations for haematological malignancy or other haematological disorders including pulmonary embolism. Waiting times for outpatient scans have reduced significantly enabling faster diagnosis and quicker treatment. Alongside this, the experience of being scanned and the amount of time patients spend waiting for results has reduced, which has had a positive impact on their psychological well-being. We can now start the patient's treatment journey much sooner, with a much shorter time spent 'in limbo'. Previously, the majority of patients with pulmonary embolism would require an overnight stay due to the logistics of organising their scan. We can now discharge over 50% of patients successfully on the day of presentation."

In addition, the scanners produce much more detailed and accurate scans. Not only does this aid diagnosis, the degree of accuracy allows us to provide high precision reporting to aid research. We really cannot thank everyone enough!"

Dr Tamara Everington
Consultant Haematologist