

Medlines

MEDICAL NEWS PROVIDED BY MCV HOSPITALS AND PHYSICIANS OF THE VCU HEALTH SYSTEM



The Latest Generation in PET Technology

No, we're not talking about the family pet, we're talking about the VCU Health System's Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanner. It's the latest version of the ultra-high resolution scanner and represents the first component of the new VCUHS Molecular Imaging Center that will occupy the ground floor of the new Gateway Building. It is located temporarily in the modular building adjacent to North Hospital.

The PET Scanner allows doctors to detect and visualize diseases by viewing images of the body that show changes in cell metabolic activity and chemistry. It helps doctors diagnose diseases in the early stages when they are easiest to treat.

The advanced PET Scanner takes positron emission tomography to a new level of diagnostic power. It produces high-quality pictures

that offer a quicker diagnosis with less discomfort. That means greater productivity and lower diagnostic cost.

The PET Scanner complements other imaging technology to help patients receive a diagnosis, proceed to treatment and even decide whether surgery is appropriate. It helps doctors determine the extent of a cancer and measure how rapidly tumors are growing. It is not only useful for studying cancer, but is helpful in identifying brain and heart disorders.

A whole-body scan can be completed in an hour or less. That helps keep patient discomfort to a minimum and requires lower doses of radioactive material. Short scan times mean hospitals can examine more patients and thus keep the cost of the procedure affordable. "This is an exciting addition to our imaging capacity and our diagnostic capabilities overall," said Dr. Sheldon Retchin, Senior Executive VP & COO of the VCU Health System.

Helipad Moved to Roof of the VCUHS Main Hospital

Months and months of work has finally culminated with two weeks of training, and the VCU Health System has a new helipad to show for it. Pilots and specially

trained paramedics completed a final two weeks of training to prepare for the first patient landing scheduled for this month.

The new helipad will provide onsite landing for helicopters transporting patients who need emergency medical care. The 53-square-foot landing pad, complete with a safety fence and special fire suppression system, is located on Main Hospital's rooftop. Helicopters previously landed across the interstate on the 7th Street landing pad, about 10 blocks away from the hospital. Patients were transferred to a waiting ambulance that delivered them to the hospital's emergency entrance. The new helipad should shorten the time it takes to transport patients to the hospital by five to 15 minutes. "Having the helipad on the rooftop of Main Hospital will make a tremendous difference for our patients," said Dr. Rao Ivatury, Director of MCV Hospitals' Level I Trauma Center. "Not only will the trip from the scene of the accident to the hospital be quicker, we will have the option of taking patients straight to the operating room."

The new helipad has been reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration and approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office. Air ambulances transport patients to MCV Hospitals about 200 times a year.