



**INSTITUT DE
CARDIOLOGIE
DE MONTRÉAL**

PRESS RELEASE
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NEW TECHNOLOGY
THE MONTREAL HEART INSTITUTE
IS NOW EQUIPPED WITH A MULTISLICE CARDIOVASCULAR
CT SCAN UNIT

MONTREAL, Quebec, October 26, 2005 – The Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) recently inaugurated a new radiology room equipped with a multislice cardiovascular CT scan unit. Requiring an investment of \$1.5 million financed entirely by the MHI Foundation, this new acquisition consolidates the MHI's position as a leading referral centre for cardiac imaging in Quebec.

The very latest in radiology

With its 64 detectors, this ultra-sophisticated machine makes it possible to achieve anatomical heart coverage as yet unsurpassed in quality. With a simple intravenous contrast injection, the machine captures high-definition images of the heart in a static state between regular heartbeats, thereby providing a more precise diagnosis—all in the space of barely five minutes. In addition to the speed of the procedure, which does not require hospitalization, this tool is also distinguished by its non-invasive application, whose effect is to minimize the risk of complications.

This new unit will be particularly useful for diagnosing patients who present risks of coronary problems or who suffer from thoracic pain. It will also be effective for pre- or post-operative examinations, notably to verify the permeability of bypasses. In fact, this will provide emergency care specialists, cardiologists and cardiac surgeons with a new tool enabling them to carry out examinations that complement those used in interventional cardiology, including hemodynamics tests.

A machine with undeniable advantages for patients

According to Dr. Patricia Ugolini, head of the radiology department at the MHI, "This high-performance tool offers many advantages: it allows us to avoid invasive procedures, to minimize the risk of complications and to obtain more precise diagnoses, hence eliminating the need to perform multiple tests. Over time, I can even envisage this tool being used more broadly and becoming a routine examination for patients who suffer from cardiac and cardiovascular problems".

The new unit has been operational since October 1, 2005, and it was used on a cardiac patient for the first time on October 6. We expect to perform an average of 30 examinations per day and to run scans on roughly 9,000 patients over the course of the upcoming year.

Studies showing the effectiveness of this new machine

Manufactured by GE, the multislice cardiovascular CT scan unit acquired by the MHI will be the object of three multi-centre studies led by the radiology department in collaboration with the MHI Research Centre and its director, Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif. These studies are aimed at comparing the results generated by this 64-detector model with those obtained via standard coronography.

Founded in 1954, the Montreal Heart Institute is an ultraspecialized hospital dedicated to care, research, teaching, prevention and the evaluation and development of new technologies in cardiology; the MHI is affiliated with the *Université de Montréal*.

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