



INSTITUT DE
CARDIOLOGIE
DE MONTRÉAL



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

A FIRST IN QUÉBEC

THE MONTREAL HEART INSTITUTE ACQUIRES A CARDIOVASCULAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SCANNER

Montreal (Québec) June 3, 2004 – The Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) just inaugurated a new radiology room equipped with a cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging scanner. This acquisition represents an investment of \$3.3 million. The Québec government contributed \$2 million and the MHI Foundation generously financed the remaining \$1.3 million. It is the only scanner of its kind in Québec, dedicated specifically to cardiovascular imaging. This new acquisition thus consolidates the MHI's position as the referral centre for cardiac imaging in Québec.

High Technology at the Service of Patients

This ultra-sophisticated apparatus can produce images of the patient of an outstanding quality without any ionizing radiation (X-rays). It uses a very powerful magnetic field (1.5 Tesla) and radio waves at a frequency already present in the environment. These waves stimulate the body protons to provide anatomical and functional images, including blood flow analysis and tissue composition. Each examination takes between 30 and 60 minutes, depending on the kind of analyses to be performed. It is estimated that six to eight examinations a day will be performed in 2004-2005.

According to Dr. Patricia Ugolini, chief of the radiology department at the MHI, “this high-performance scanner is much more versatile than the traditional scanner and offers many advantages: it makes it possible to avoid certain invasive examinations (catheterization, for example), it makes in-depth analysis possible (myocardial perfusion and stress studies, among others), and produces 3-D reconstructions of the aorta, thus ensuring better surgical planning. Indeed, all patients suffering from cardiac and cardiovascular problems will benefit directly from these advantages.”

An Ergocycle for Stress Tests

The cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging scanner includes an additional instrument, namely an ergocycle that can reproduce conditions of stress in a patient to then analyse the impact of exertion on his or her cardiovascular condition. In fact, the MHI will be one of the only centres in Canada to have this new instrument. It will be particularly useful in the preventive medicine and physical activity centre (Centre ÉPIC), which, with 4000 users, is the largest preventive medicine and cardiology rehabilitation centre in Canada.

The Éléonore Paquet Room

The room in which the new MRI scanner was installed has been dedicated to Dr. Éléonore Paquet, an MHI radiologist, recognized nationally as one of the pioneers and for her long experience in the field of cardiovascular imaging through magnetic resonance. This tribute acknowledges her outstanding contribution to the advancement of this field.

The Montreal Heart Institute, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding this year, is an ultraspecialized hospital centre dedicated to care, research, teaching and prevention, as well as the assessment of new technologies in cardiology. It is affiliated with the Université de Montréal.

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N.B. : Given the specificities of the cardiovascular MRI unit, the television and photographic media are asked to come to the Montreal Heart Institute, 5000 Bélanger Street (corner Viau) in Montreal on June 3, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. sharp.