
New PET/CT Imaging Now Available at Somerset Hospital

Somerset Hospital now offers the cutting edge technology of PET/CT through the Discovery ST 16 slice PET/CT system which is also optimized for cancer care.

For oncology patients, PET/CT is used to determine the exact location and stage of cancerous tissue and can prevent unnecessary surgery and biopsies and inappropriate treatments. “PET/CT will have a major impact on our clinical evaluations of cancer patients, and in many cases will enable our physicians to begin treatment earlier and increase the odds for successful outcomes,” states Dr. Thomas Anderson, Medical Director.

The system integrates a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner with a 16 slice Computed Tomography scanner. It will provide physicians with more sensitivity, speed, resolution, and diagnostic confidence when treating cancer patients. PET/CT is an imaging procedure that provides physicians with information about the body’s chemistry, cell function and exact location of disease.



The new PET/CT system will shorten scan times as well as provide improved image quality. “Less time on the table means faster results and greater patient comfort,” states Melissa Minnick, Director of Imaging Services. “With the new PET/CT system, we will all encounter better image quality and greater confidence in image interpretation.”

The precise images obtained with PET are not available with other technologies, such as CT, MRI or x-ray alone. The difference lies in the ability of PET to study body function rather than giving radiological images of anatomy or body structure. The combination of the metabolic information from PET and the anatomic information from CT, places the PET/CT at the forefront to cutting edge technology allowing physicians to more accurately stage and treat patient disease processes.

PHOTO: Somerset Hospital now offers PET/CT technology. Shown is Shirley Zytkowicz, BSN, RN, as she begins a procedure on a patient.

