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New CT exam added to slate of services at Lake of the Woods District Hospital

Kenora, ON, December 21, 2023 – The Diagnostic Imaging (DI) Department at Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) recently began offering a new imaging examination for patients. This new non-invasive examination called CT Enterography is one of the best imaging modalities to assess for small bowel abnormalities, which are often difficult to visualize on conventional CT scanning. These include inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn’s disease, Celiacs disease, gastrointestinal bleeds, small bowel tumors and some vascular lesions in the GI tract.

During the CT Enterography examination, the patient will drink an oral contrast beverage and have IV contrast administration. This allows a CT Technologist to clearly view the entire thickness of the bowel wall as well as detailed comprehensive information on the extent and severity of the disease process.

Sean Hailstone, Manager of Diagnostic Imaging at LWDH noted “Adding any new exam to our slate of DI examinations is only made possible by the incredible team of MRTs (Medical Radiation Technologists) and their dedication to ongoing learning, keeping up to date with the most recent technology and making sure our patients are comfortable and well cared for.”

LWDH MRT Ashlan Adams furthered her education to learn how to best utilize CT to demonstrate the different small bowel disorders. There was also extensive research done on different oral contrast beverages and protocols used in other facilities. Ashlan shares “Patient comfort is of high importance to us in DI, so instead of the large amount of water-laxative mixtures often used in DI departments, we use a flavoured neutral oral contrast that is much more tolerable for patients with less unwanted side effects.” She also worked with the CT manufacturer (Canon) to set up a CT protocol which provides high quality imaging and improved patient comfort.

The first CT Enterography examination was conducted at LWDH on September 15th and that patient shared their experience “I had been experiencing symptoms reminiscent of Crohns and my doctor scheduled a colonoscopy and then the CT Enterography imaging which revealed cysts. I’m grateful for my doctor who recommended this test, it showed things we weren’t even looking for. I was then scheduled for an MRI in Winnipeg and hope to soon have more answers. I have been in the Radiology department in our hospital many times over the years and the staff are so caring and really make you feel comfortable. The drink that I had to take with this exam was quite pleasant too!”

Prior to offering CT Enterography at LWDH, patients would have to travel to Thunder Bay or out of province for this type of examination. For more information on LWDH, please visit www.lwdh.on.ca or follow on social media to keep up to date with your hospital.

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