

Imaging tech takes away guesswork

Grande Ronde Hospital's modern equipment delivers benefits for patients

By Sabrina Thompson
The Observer

Before the use of imaging technology such as X-rays, MRI and CT scans, doctors would have to perform exploratory surgery to find what was ailing their patients. By the time a surgeon was inside the body, it could be too late, and the risks caused by going under the knife were many. Fortunately, imaging technology has become mainstream.



Juniper

At Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande, radiology manager Troy Juniper said the hospital continues to make strides to help in patient care, diagnostics and treatment. Grande Ronde boasts a col-



Observer file photo

Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, in recent years invested in upgrades to its mammography equipment and other imaging technology.

lection of state-of-the art imaging technology. That means a patient's imaging tests — X-ray, MRI, CT scan, mammogram or ultrasound — are interpreted by a local board-certified radiologist who can then communicate directly about the diagnosis with the physician.

"It is nice to keep everything in house for the patient and the doctor," Juniper said.

All of this can be done within hours or days, according to Juniper. The immediacy of results comes from

almost all of the imaging machines being digital. There is no film to develop. Instead, the image pops up on the technician's screen sometimes within

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