



# State-of-the-art IMAGING

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## Hospital offers multiple tools to look inside

**By Larry Leos**

*To the Blue Mountain Eagle*

**R**adiology is now the key diagnostic tool for many diseases and has an important role in monitoring treatment and predicting outcome.

There are a number of imaging modalities within radiology. Here at Blue Mountain Hospital we provide these comprehensive imaging services in a patient-focused environment. We offer a wide range of services, MRI, general X-ray, CT, ultrasonography, mammography and bone density tests. The radiology department has a knowledgeable staff of caring, dedicated technologists providing imaging services on high-quality, high-tech equipment. During the summer of 2017, the hospital added a new CT scanner. It produces excellent image quality, gives patients a low-

er dose of radiation and provides outstanding images across the full range of clinical needs.

DEXA stands for dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (or densitometry). This is a procedure that measures the amount of bone, muscle and/or body fat and determines bone density. It is commonly used to diagnose osteoporosis and other bone diseases. Scans are quick (usually just a few minutes) and are typically performed on the lower spine and hip.

Safe and painless, MRI scans give us a more detailed picture of what is happening inside a patient's body than a traditional X-ray. MRI uses powerful magnet and radio waves to create these images. That makes it possible to find even the smallest changes within the body and accurately diagnose conditions from possible tumors to sports injuries. We are very fortunate to have a high-quality scanner here at

Blue Mountain Hospital.

Mammography is a specific type of imaging using a low-dose X-ray system for examination of the breasts. Blue Mountain Hospital offers the most advanced technology with digital mammography. Digital mammography is 25 percent more effective at detecting abnormalities in women with dense breasts than conventional mammography. Your mammogram is the first line of defense against breast cancer. Our mammography program is accredited by the American College of Radiology, meaning we promise the best images using the lowest dosage of radiation.

An ultrasound exam, also known as a sonogram, is a safe, state-of-the-art imaging exam. It uses high-frequency sound waves to produce real-time images that differentiate between the body's

soft tissues and fluid-filled structures. Our technologists, or sonographers, are expert in a variety of ultrasound specialties and hold advanced credentials recognized by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Sonographers closely follow a prescription in order to acquire the images that have been ordered by the patient's doctor. While these images are diagnostic in nature, the sonographer does not personally make the diagnosis.

Come see us for your imaging needs. The department is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week for emergency situations. For outpatient services, the department is available from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 541-574-4154 to schedule appointments or if you happen to have any questions.

*Larry Leos is the radiology manager at Blue Mountain Hospital.*