



Fibroscan

One in four Canadians have some form of liver disease. What's worse, many don't know they have it. And they may not find out until it's too late.

The most effective way to diagnose liver disease used to be with a biopsy. Then came Fibroscan: a quick, non-invasive alternative that tells doctors everything they need to know about a potentially diseased liver - in two minutes.

What is Fibroscan?

Fibroscan is state-of-the-art technology that uses sound waves to measure the stiffness of the liver, and the amount of fat in the liver. The test is administered quickly and easily. Patients lie on their backs and raise their right arm. A probe that sends sound waves into the liver is passed along the lower chest wall. That's it. Data is automatically processed by the on-board computer.

Fibroscan at the University of Alberta Hospital

Adding a new, advanced Fibroscan at the University of Alberta Hospital will vastly improve the chances of detecting liver disease in its early stages.

The medical team will be able to conduct 30 to 40 tests a day on patients who have had abnormal liver tests. The Fibroscan will diagnose whether these patients require further detailed assessments or have conditions that can be corrected with lifestyle changes.

The Fibroscan will also be used on patients already receiving treatment for liver disease. The two-minute test will enable doctors to monitor the progression of the disease and plan long-term care.



The University Hospital Foundation is committed to raising \$266,500 in support of the purchase of a new and advanced Fibroscan for use in the world-leading Gastroenterology program at the University of Alberta Hospital.



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You can make the difference

Your support will make a critical difference in the lives of patients with liver disease by helping to diagnose the extent of their condition. And for those who require it, providing regular, pain free monitoring of the disease.

Who gets liver disease?

There are more than 100 known forms of liver disease caused by a variety of factors and affecting everyone from infants to seniors.

A lesser known but potentially fatal form of liver disease is nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Left undiagnosed NASH - liver inflammation and damage caused by a buildup of fat - may progress to cirrhosis, liver failure or liver cancer.

Healthy and active, Kim Gadbois had no reason to believe she had liver disease. Blood tests taken during a routine physical proved otherwise.

Today, Kim is on a treatment plan that includes regular Fibroscan testing. "If I had to get a biopsy every year, that would be hard to take," said Kim. "Fibroscan takes care of that concern. And it tells my doctor what he needs to know."



The unique challenge with NASH is that it impacts individuals who have no reason to believe they have liver disease, and likely no physical symptoms. The first, and sometimes only, sign that something may be wrong is often an irregular result on a routine blood test.

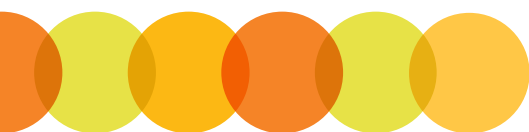
With a new Fibroscan, patients will have a much easier time finding out whether the irregularity is tied to liver disease.

"Fibroscan is not like a biopsy," explained Dr. Mang Ma, a Hepatologist at the University of Alberta Hospital. "There's no pain. It's quick. It's easy. And in two minutes we can tell you whether you need to come back or not."

Providing answers when you need them

The Hepatology clinic at the University of Alberta Hospital's Gastroenterology program sees patients from across northern Alberta, northern BC, the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan.

For these patients, Fibroscan provides the answers they need immediately. There is no further testing. No waiting for results. And they return home with a treatment plan, if one is required.



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