Afternoon Despatch & Courier
www.afternoondc.in
FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2011

Miracle machine at the Lilavati

Continued from pg 1 «

and whole body scan is done in less than three seconds, whereas in a normal scan, the process takes minutes. It is a non-invasive technique for diagnosis and detection for any problem in any part of the body, and unlike the standard procedure that requires four to five hours of being at the hospital, the CTCA gets everything done, right from the scan to the report within fifteen to twenty minutes."

"Also the fact that the images are in 3D angio format, the scanned part of the body can be looked at from all angles enabling us to have a detailed look at it," added Dr. Deshmukh. The CTCA also helps identify plaques (fat/cholesterol deposited in the artery), the type of plaque (soft or hard), the percentage of blockages, and also helps decide if a person has to go for angioplasty or a bypass surgery. The precision rate of the CTCA is more than 95 per cent. While these aspects are more applicable for adults, even children can be benefited by this technology. "The CTCA is helpful for children too as it helps detect congenital cardiac defects and gives us all details of the anatomy of the heart and its vessels. And as the time taken for the scan is less than a second, the child need not be sedated for the scan," informed Dr. Deshmukh.

The other applications of CTCA are neurological, orthopaedic applications, abdomen and thorax applications, to name a few.

Usually, the very mention of undergoing a scan gives people some amount of anxiety, leading to an increase in their heart rate. While a normal scan requires the heart rate to be less than 70, the CTCA has no such requirement for a scan to be done. This saves time because bringing down heart rates after giving appropriate medicine, takes at least half an hour. Also, this machine can take a weight of up to 200 kg unlike the limit of 110 kg in other scanning machines. So, obese people too have access to CTCA.

Fortunately, lesser time under machine with superior results does not entail greater exposure to radiation, nor does it involve any higher costs. While other CT scanners have a radiation of 5 to 10 mSv, the CTCA has a radiation of less than one mSv said Dr. Deshmukh. And about the cost factor, Dr. Deshmukh said, "The cost of this scan ranges from Rs.3,000 to Rs.15,000, whereas the standard procedure costs anywhere between Rs.18,000 to Rs.20,000. This is because the standard cath lab procedure is well established and the gold standard has 100 per cent precision."

shwetha.kannan@afternoondc.in

Charges for the CTCA scan:

- Coronary scan: Rs.12,000
- Neurological scan: Rs.8,000
- Brain scan: Rs.3,000
- Whole Body scan: Rs.15,000

Millisievert (mSv) is the scientific unit of measurement for radiation dose.