

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Blantyre

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Centre

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (Queens) is the largest referral hospital within the Ministry of Health system in Malawi. It is run by government.

Link with the University of Malawi College of Medicine

The College of Medicine operates from Queens. The Radiology Department at Queens is involved in patient care, teaching and research.

Staff

- 1 Radiologist
- 5 Radiographers

Equipment

- MRI- GE Signa ovation Under the College of Medicine le slice Tomoscan EG
- Bucky rooms (Xray rooms)

Workload

The Department, as part of the entire hospital, performs several roles in the Health Care Delivery System in Malawi:



■ Dr. Sam Kampondeni

- District Hospital for the City of Blantyre
- Referral Hospital-the largest in the country.
- Teaching hospital
- Research center
Disease pattern

Chest films and limb xrays

More than half of all cases come from Casualty. These are mainly trauma and patients with cough. This makes limb x-rays and chest films the most commonly requested examinations.

Ultrasound

The ultrasound section performs all kinds of examinations. The majority of cases are abdominal and pelvic. The rest include transfontanel scans, echocardiograms, thyroid scans and 2D compression scans for Deep venous thrombosis. There is no Doppler function on our 2 machines. Several departments (Surgery, OB-GYN, Medicine and Pediatrics) have their own ultrasound services.



■ Dr. Kampondeni and staff



This has helped to reduce the burden on the Hospital department.

Contrast examinations

These are few in number mainly because of the rising cost of Contrast agent. When available clinicians scrutinise all requests for Contrast examinations to rationalise its use.

CT

The CT scanner performs about ten cases each day. The scanner runs on batteries and is a single slice type, properties than somewhat limit its overall capacity. However, it has been sufficient to meet local needs thus far.

Most CT examination (about 80%) are heads. Stroke, Infections and complications of Aids are the main indications.

Headache and hemiplegia are the commonest indications.

ENT, Orthopaedic, Chest and Abdominal examinations comprise the rest.

MRI

The new MRI is expected to image 1 patient in every hour. Probably at best it might perform 10-12 cases in a day.



■ Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital



The Magnetic Resonance Imaging Centre was dedicated by the Minister of Health Hon. Khumbo Kachali MP, on 23rd June 2008. It is located at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Blantyre and offers the possibility of MRI-Technology to all patients in Malawi and neighboring countries. The Centre is operated by the College of Medicine, University of Malawi.

MRI Interpretations:

All MRI scans will be interpreted by Dr. Sam Kampondeni, and he will provide written reports to the referring clinicians.

In some circumstances, the scans will be read a second time by radiologists from Michigan State University – electronic versions of the scans will be sent to the States via high-speed internet connection devoted to the MRI.