

The latest in cancer and cardiac care

Dr Ajit S Shinto says, Coimbatore is slowly gaining popularity as a health hub with state of the art medical equipment, trained and highly qualified doctors and supporting staff. The Dept of Nuclear Medicine at Kovai Medical Center and Hospital (KMCH) is proud to introduce three new jewels in its crown.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a whole body cancer detection and staging scan, the main advantage of which is that the entire body can be screened in a single sitting, eliminating the need for multiple regional scans like CT scan of the chest, head and neck, abdomen pelvis etc. Before the advent of a PET scan, multiple different scans had to be done on the patient to assess the stage in cancer. Also the PET-CT is much more accurate than CT/MRI alone and is the "Gold Standard" for even assessing the response to cancer therapy.

This is the first and only facility in all of Coimbatore and western Tamil Nadu. In fact, patients had to travel to Chennai, Bangalore or Cochin to get a PET scan done before this, where the patients had to



pay from ₹ 5000 to ₹ 10, 000 extra, not including the travel and accommodation expenses.

Two additional facilities that are introduced for the first time in Coimbatore and surrounding areas are the attenuation corrected cardiac scans and thyroid cancer therapy ward.

In individuals with risk factors for heart disease, a cardiac stress SPECT is the apt test to assess the risk for a block in the heart's blood vessel. Only if the cardiac scan is positive, do we need to proceed to an angiogram with intent to treat the block. So, no angiogram should be done in these classes of patients, just for diagnosing heart blocks.

It is a facility for admitting

the patients with thyroid cancer to treat with Nuclear Medicine drugs targeted to thyroid tissue. The hospital has one of the largest such facilities in the country for treating 12 thyroid cancer patients per week.

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