



The Forever Friends Appeal

Helping the Royal United Hospital
provide the very best in patient care



THE BREAST UNIT

The very busy Team in the Breast Unit see over 4000 new patients each year, of which approximately 300 will be diagnosed with cancer.

Unfortunately breast cancer is becoming increasingly common, with one in nine women diagnosed. It occurs occasionally in men too. Early detection and treatment of this disease can enable patients to resume a normal life.

All urgent GP referrals are seen within two weeks in the one-stop clinic with all investigations performed at the same visit. Fortunately, most patients can be reassured with no further treatment. Some patients who are considered to be at increased risk of developing breast cancer such as those with a strong family history, continue to be monitored – usually with regular mammograms

There are various tests used to detect breast cancer, the most common being the mammogram. This uses x-rays to image the breast tissue and demonstrate areas of abnormality. Any areas of concern are then examined with ultrasound and abnormal areas are sampled using a needle biopsy.



The current mammogram machines will need replacing within the next few years with state of the art digital units which use a lower dose of x-rays to give the mammogram picture. The digital mammogram machine helps the radiologists to see even more tissue and will reduce the need to recall patients for further mammograms and scans.

To meet the increasing demands for more mammograms and to maintain the state of the art facilities of the breast unit, we are **fundraising to purchase two digital mammogram units.**

The Breast Team relies on this equipment to ensure that the service they provide continues to be very high quality. The Unit is already recognised as one of the best in the country.

From the most recent patient satisfaction survey of February 2006:

“Probably the best treatment/experience I’ve ever had in a hospital. All the staff were friendly and the medical staff extremely caring and patient. Everyone seemed very happy – it helped me cope with my anxiety and stopped me from panicking”.

PLEASE help us raise £500,000 to support the Team so we can purchase the two state-of-the-art mammograms and provide the best level of care for all our patients.

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