

PRESS RELEASE



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Charity Ball Proceeds Benefit Colon Cancer Screening

Colonoscopy assists in early detection and prevention of colon cancer

Huntingdon, PA (03/14/08) – J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital is purchasing a new colonoscope for the Endoscopy Department with the proceeds from The Auxiliary to J.C. Blair's 57th Annual Charity Ball. Through this event, the Auxiliary raised nearly \$25,000. Charity Ball Chairpersons Miranda and Dominick Peruso presented the check to Bonnie Mauk, J.C. Blair endoscopy charge nurse, in conjunction with National Colon Cancer Awareness Month.

“This high resolution videoscope will provide more detailed information to physicians and increase patient comfort for the 13 to 15 colonoscopies done daily at J.C. Blair,” said J.C. Blair Gastroenterologist Dr. Keith Waddle. Colonoscopies are one of the best screening tools for the prevention and early detection of colon cancer. If any growths, or polyps, are found, they can be removed to help prevent them from becoming cancerous. If cancer is detected, patients have a better chance to be cured.

Colon cancer is the third most prevalent cancer in men and women today, and the second leading cause of cancer death. The American Cancer Society estimates that 108,070 new cases of colon cancer will be diagnosed in 2008. However, colon cancer does not have to be a death sentence. Regular screenings and early detection are responsible for one million colorectal cancer survivors in the United States today, according to the American Cancer Society.

“Most people are concerned with sedation and the options available to prepare for a colonoscopy,” said Waddle. “We offer a sedation that allows for total comfort, an option that is unique to J.C. Blair.”

“Typically, a colonoscopy should be done every ten years beginning at age 50,” Waddle said. However, if there are any of the other risk factors present, testing before age 50 and more frequent screenings are encouraged. There are several testing options. Dr. Waddle recommends that patients talk to their primary care doctor about the best testing option for them.

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