



Thompson Hospital machine takes the guesswork out of locating veins

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GateHouse News Service

Posted Feb 08, 2011 @ 01:16 PM

Last update Feb 08, 2011 @ 04:12 PM

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Canandaigua, N.Y. — A new piece of equipment at Thompson Hospital is helping to make the process of finding a vein on a toddler a little less painful.

“Although this device makes it easier for the clinicians to be successful in venipuncture, it really is about the benefit to patients in reducing the number of needlesticks required to provide care,” said Deborah Jones, nurse manager of the Birthing Center.

The machine works by using near-infrared light to detect hemoglobin, iron-containing oxygen transport proteins in the blood, while a digital camera takes a rapid succession of pictures. These images are then projected back on to the skin, allowing doctors and nurses to identify the veins and determine if they appear suitable for blood draws and IV insertion.

When using the machine, Jones said that clinicians look for the size and shape of the veins, along with the presence of valves, which can make IV starts difficult.

The device will be especially useful for patients who have swelling or thick layers of fat, which can make palpating veins, the traditional way of locating a vein, difficult, Jones said.

Another problem that the VeinViewer will solve is locating undamaged veins in patients who have had multiple IVs or blood draws, she said. The device shows where blood that has leaked out of a damaged vein, which may not be visible with the naked eye.

The purchase of the VeinViewer was made possible through donation... from the Thompson Guild, the not-for-profit fundraising arm of Thompson Health. The Guild raised a portion of the funds from proceeds of their Gigantic Garage Sale in June.

Although the VeinViewer will be in the Birthing Center, Jones said the technology can be used by patients of all ages. For that reason, the Guild will purchase a second VeinViewer for use in other areas of Thompson Hospital.



Deborah Jones, nurse manager at Thompson Hospital's Birthing Center, using the Vein Viewer, a new piece of equipment that makes drawing blood and inserting IV lines.