

# New Diagnostic Equipment Added at Prostate Center

By Phillip Grove  
Staff Writer

For almost a decade, the Allegheny General Prostate Center has addressed a critical health-care need of men in western Pennsylvania.

Since it opened the doors of its North Side facility in 1996, the Prostate Center has treated more than 4,000 patients. And thanks to the success of two fund-raising events last summer, the Prostate Center and Allegheny General Hospital recently were able to purchase new equipment for the Center's continued emphasis on the diagnosis and treatment of men with prostate cancer.

A new 3-D color flow doppler ultrasound will greatly enhance services at the Prostate Center, according to **Ralph J. Miller Jr., M.D.**, director, Allegheny General Prostate Center.

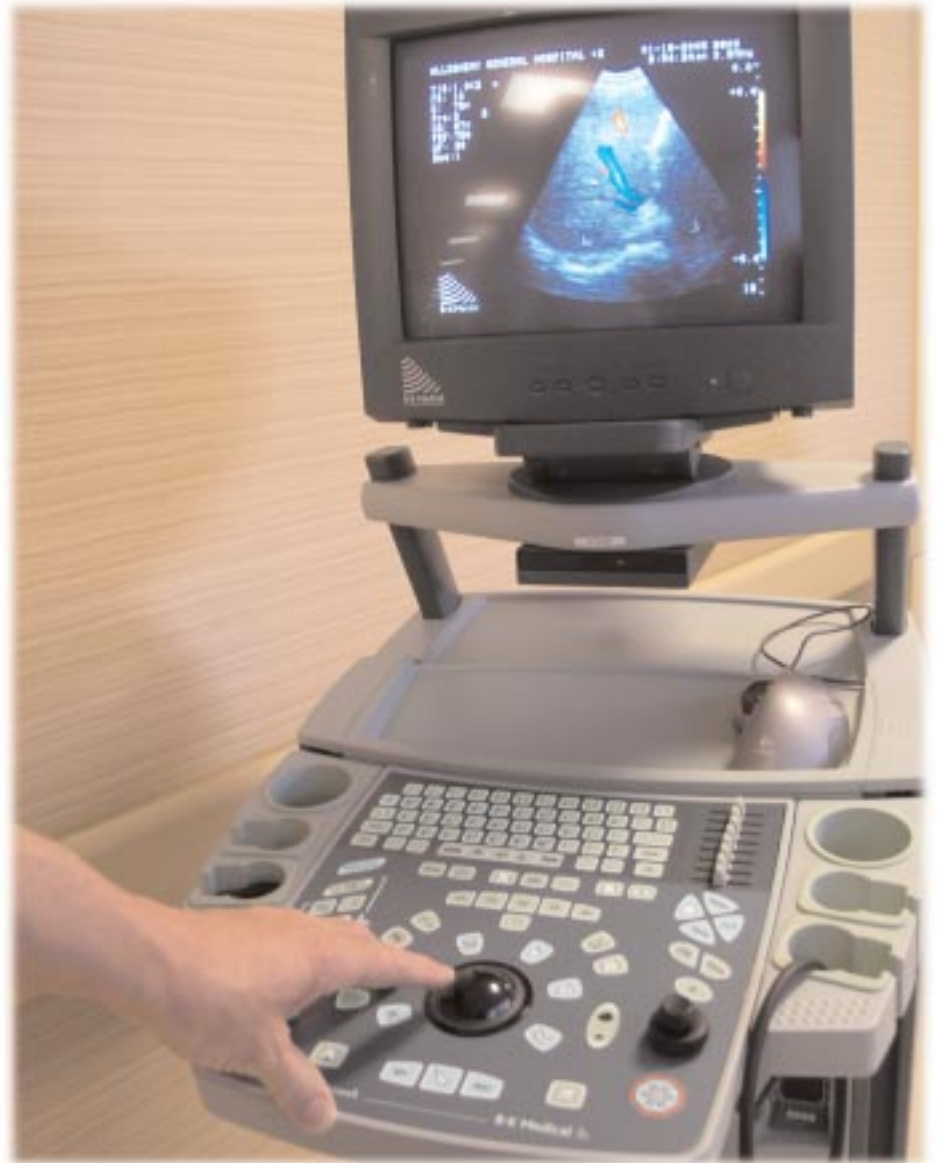
"The machine will help us more efficiently handle the demands of a growing number of patients," Miller said.

The high-definition ultrasound gives specialists an ideal combination of high performance, versatility and ease of use, making it suitable for a wide variety of applications. The machine also will help specialists image difficult-to-scan patients.

"Ultrasound has become an integral part of surgery, but it is usually only required for a limited period of time during the surgical procedure," Miller said. "With the new equipment, you can wheel the scanner into the OR and connect it at any time during the operation. When it is no longer needed, you disconnect it and take it to the next location."

The inaugural Father's Day Ride and Stride — A Ride and Walk for Prostate Cancer Awareness attracted a total of 200 cyclists and walkers to the North Park Boathouse. The next day, the Shoot-out for Prostate Cancer at Longue Vue Club had about 100 participants tee it up in an 18-hole golf scramble, while about 15 sharpshooters took aim on the club's shooting range.

The two events in 2004 raised about \$55,000. Since its inception, the Shoot-out for Prostate Cancer has resulted in more



*New 3-D color Flow Doppler Ultrasound*

than \$100,000 being donated to the Prostate Center and the Western Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Foundation.

"I again would like to thank the participants in the Father's Day Ride and Stride and Shoot-out for Prostate Cancer, along with those companies and organizations that supported these events," Miller said. "We could not have provided this integral piece of equipment for our patients without their support."

An estimated 230,900 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2004,

according to the American Cancer Society. Prostate cancer — the second leading cause of cancer deaths of men in the United States — is most often found in men 55 and older, and there is a higher risk associated with African-Americans, men with a family history of prostate cancer and men with diets high in animal fat.

A healthy diet, regular exercise and annual checkups are the first defenses to keep your body strong and reduce the risk or slow development of the disease.