

PRESS RELEASE

Southampton General Hospital has recently acquired an Esaote MyLab™Gamma portable ultrasound scanner to take imaging facilities out into the community for the benefit of young patients around the region.

In 2011 the first Paediatric Rheumatology outreach clinic was set up to offer the same level of specialised care as available in Southampton General Hospital. Southampton General Hospital has become the regional centre for Paediatric Rheumatology and now runs outreach clinics across the region in Basingstoke, Winchester, Poole, Salisbury, Dorchester, Chichester, Worthing and will open 3 more within the next 12 months.

The portable machine will allow the current 25 outreach clinics to double and will offer young people the same access to treatment by paediatric rheumatologists as at Southampton General Hospital. This service currently sees 250 new patients per year and is rising exponentially as they are finally pulled into the system and receive the treatment they need. One of the key treatments is steroid injections. Performing these injections under ultrasound guidance is far more effective than performing them blind and can lead to effectiveness being improved from 3-6 months up to 1-2 years.

“The Esaote MyLab™Gamma offers the best grey scale resolution and Doppler,” said of her choice in ultrasound Dr Alice Leahy, Consultant Paediatric Rheumatologist. *“We need the Doppler sensitivity of a high-end diagnostic machine: with the other systems we evaluated, when we used Doppler we lost grey scale resolution, with the MyLab™Gamma it was consistent.”*

