

The D-Scope®: 21st-Century Technology (continued from page 1)

"It's transformed the game of evaluating and managing a range of medical problems seen best through the endoscope," says Dr. Chandler, whose company, Medical Digital Developers, originally developed the D-Scope® to record rhinolaryngoscopic procedures. "The whole goal is to take analog equipment into the digital world without having to replace everything. Whatever a camera outputs, the D-Scope® can input. It's a system developed by a doctor to improve patient satisfaction."

Both patients and physicians benefit from the system. With the D-Scope®, patients can see what their condition looks like. Physicians can also better analyze data in diseases ranging from chronic sinusitis, esophagitis, and inflammatory bowel disease.

"When they say that a picture is worth a thousand words, this video system is worth a million," says Lloyd Mayer, MD, Co-Director of the Immunology Institute and Chief of the Divisions of Clinical Immunology and Gastroenterology at Mount Sinai. "It allows the physician to review, in real time, the procedure performed by others, or it allows the physician to make direct comparisons to studies done in the past. It is a window into looking at disease progression or regression. That is incredibly valuable."

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After the D-Scope® was developed in 2003, several local otolaryngologists volunteered to test the prototype for six months. Mount Sinai's Division of Gastroenterology was the first in the nation to have its own D-Scope®, and the Division of Clinical Immunology received the first system ever installed in an allergy clinic in the United States. Both systems, which cost \$11,500 each, were donated in 2009 to Mount Sinai by patients.

By 2006, the D-Scope® became more widely available. It is now used in private practices and at medical institutions nationwide.

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Dialysis Program Renamed and Expanded

In an effort to improve patient care and quality of life, and to expand dialysis services, the new Mount Sinai Kidney Center is developing programs and procedures to enhance the patient experience. As part of the center's initiatives, more patients will be able to administer dialysis treatments at home and receive treatment at a first-class medical facility.

Formerly called the Mount Sinai Dialysis Program, the center provides dialysis treatments to adult and pediatric patients with acute renal failure and end-stage renal disease.

Approximately 40-50 of the center's patients each year use an at-home dialysis treatment called peritoneal dialysis. For patients who are not ideal candidates for peritoneal dialysis, but wish to administer their own treatments at home, the center is developing a home hemodialysis program. This method of

dialysis uses an artificial dialyzer to clean a patients' blood of toxins. Peritoneal dialysis, in comparison, uses a patient's peritoneal membrane to allow toxins to move from the blood into dialysis fluid that is infused in the abdominal cavity and then drained several times a day.

"Patients who have a dialysis machine at home have more control over when and how they get their treatment, which can be empowering," says Brian D. Radbill, MD, Medical Director of the Mount Sinai Kidney Center and an Assistant Professor of Medicine in Nephrology. "It is an option many patients and physicians are exploring more and more."

With a new mission to increase patient satisfaction, kidney center staff are also working to minimize waiting time at the dialysis units, where new dialysis chairs have recently been

installed. Staff also meet with patient representatives on a monthly basis to obtain feedback on how to better coordinate patient care and improve patient transportation to and from treatment. To elevate care for pediatric patients, an outpatient pediatric dialysis unit is also planned.

"We want our staff to get even more involved in addressing patient comfort and not just their treatment," says Dr. Radbill.



LEFT: Brian D. Radbill, MD, and Wayne E. Keathley, President and COO of The Mount Sinai Hospital, at the official Mount Sinai Kidney Center renaming ceremony. RIGHT: Grateful patient Kim Blackstock tells physician Brian Radbill, MD, that the new Mount Sinai Kidney Center is "the Ivy League of dialysis centers."