



**Fall-Winter 2020**

A Bulletin for Family Physicians



Keeping Patients Safe - Covid-19

New Scopes at TEC

**Thornhill Endoscopy Centre**

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**IMPACT OF COVID-19**

As we are well into the second wave of the pandemic, it has become clear that our healthcare system is being challenged to not only manage Covid-19 related health issues, but also issues related to delays in cancer screening and treatment. This adds further strain to our health system as patients present with more advanced disease.

It was estimated that 150 000 surgeries in Ontario were postponed over 3 months. For colonoscopies, where approximately 300 000 are performed in Ontario each year, a 3-month backlog is estimated to be 75 000 procedures. With an adenoma detection rate of 20% and a colon cancer detection rate of 0.5%, it is estimated that 15 000 patients with adenomas and 375 patients with colon cancer likely suffered a delay in their diagnoses and treatment. On the front lines, our surgeons and oncologists are seeing more patients with advanced cancer diagnoses.

The CDC has estimated that 41% of adults had delayed or avoided medical care including urgent or emergency care (12%) and routine care (32%). Specifically, we have seen that patients with a positive FIT often did not have a colonoscopy within 4-6 weeks due to Covid-19 (cancellations and perceived fears). In Ontario, it is estimated that we will need 84 weeks to clear the backlog, which will likely result in further delays in care and more harm to patients.

In response to the health crisis caused by Covid-19, TEC remains committed to keeping patients safe. Having secured an adequate supply of PPE, and implementing up-to-date protocols, TEC is well-positioned to continue to provide safe high-quality care to patients of Thornhill and beyond.

**KEEPING PATIENTS AND STAFF SAFE  
WITH THE LATEST EQUIPMENT!**



Nurse MJ with new video processors.



Reprocessing technician Wilma with new scope reprocessors – high standards in infection control.



New Fujinon Eluxio -760 scopes at TEC with 135 x optical zoom and light enhanced imaging – better detection of polyps and characterization of diseases. TEC is the first clinic in Ontario to acquire these scopes - the best equipment for our endoscopists to provide high-quality care for patients.



DR. LUKE BUI, M.D.,  
F.R.C.S.(C.)

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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**TEC UPDATE**  
**KEEPING PATIENTS**  
**SAFE IN A PANDEMIC**

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I am pleased to report that TEC is on-track as we continue to provide high-quality care to your patients. Covid-19 has reminded us all that infection control and prevention are paramount to provide safe care for our patients. At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, TEC was proactive in implementing protocols to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 to our patients and staff. These include longer booking times for procedures, staggering of appointments, virtual assessments and follow-ups, physical barriers, signage, 2-stage Covid-19 screening (telephone and upon arrival), enhanced sanitation, and appropriate PPE for staff and patients. All contact surfaces are wiped down with CPSO-recommended disinfectants between each patient, and patient and staff areas are cleaned frequently. We have significantly reduced the number of patients waiting in our waiting room to support physical distancing. As well, all patients are required to sanitize their hands and wear a mask upon arrival at TEC. These protocols have kept our patients and staff safe. At TEC, we continue to be diligent during the pandemic to create a safe experience so that patients can continue to have access to much needed ambulatory endoscopy services.

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HIGHEST STANDARDS AND  
PROCEDURAL EXCELLENCE

Thornhill Endoscopy Centre



DR. DEVON RICHARDSON, M.D., M.Sc.,  
F.R.C. S.(C.),

COLORECTAL SURGERY

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**TEC DOC SPOTLIGHT**

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Dr. Richardson completed her medical degree and residency in General Surgery at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Following this she completed a residency in Colorectal Surgery at the University of Toronto. As a colorectal surgeon, Dr. Richardson has advanced training in the diagnosis and management of diseases involving the colon, rectum and anus. She has published research papers and book chapters relating to the practice of colorectal surgery, colorectal cancer and general oncology. Dr. Richardson performs diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy and minor anorectal surgery. We are pleased to have Dr. Richardson join TEC where she provides expert care for patients with colorectal conditions.

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PROFESSIONAL AND FRIENDLY STAFF

UNIT 11, 390 STEELES AVEUNUE  
WEST, THORNHILL, ON, L4J 6X2



DR. WARREN BEAN,  
M.D., F.R.C.P.(C.)

ANAESTHESIOLOGIST

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**ANESTHESIA**  
**UPDATE**  
**ANESTHESIA IN A**  
**PANDEMIC**

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After a brief clinic shut down at the start of the pandemic, TEC has implemented safety protocols to take care of patients.

We are glad to report that the clinic is now fully operational with protective equipment, physical distancing, mask application for all, hand sanitization as well as thorough surface cleaning.

The provision of sedation for gastroscopy can often be associated with gagging or coughing during the procedure caused by secretions into the airway. This increases the risk of viral aerosolization.

Our protocol includes deep sedation for endoscopy which allows for the procedure to be performed with minimal or no gag or cough response. The patient's masks are then reapplied as soon as the procedure is done.

This has greatly increased safety at TEC as we anticipate protocols being in place for the foreseeable future, keeping both patients and staff safe.

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PUTTING YOUR MIND AT EASE

WWW.THORNHILLENDOSCOPY.COM