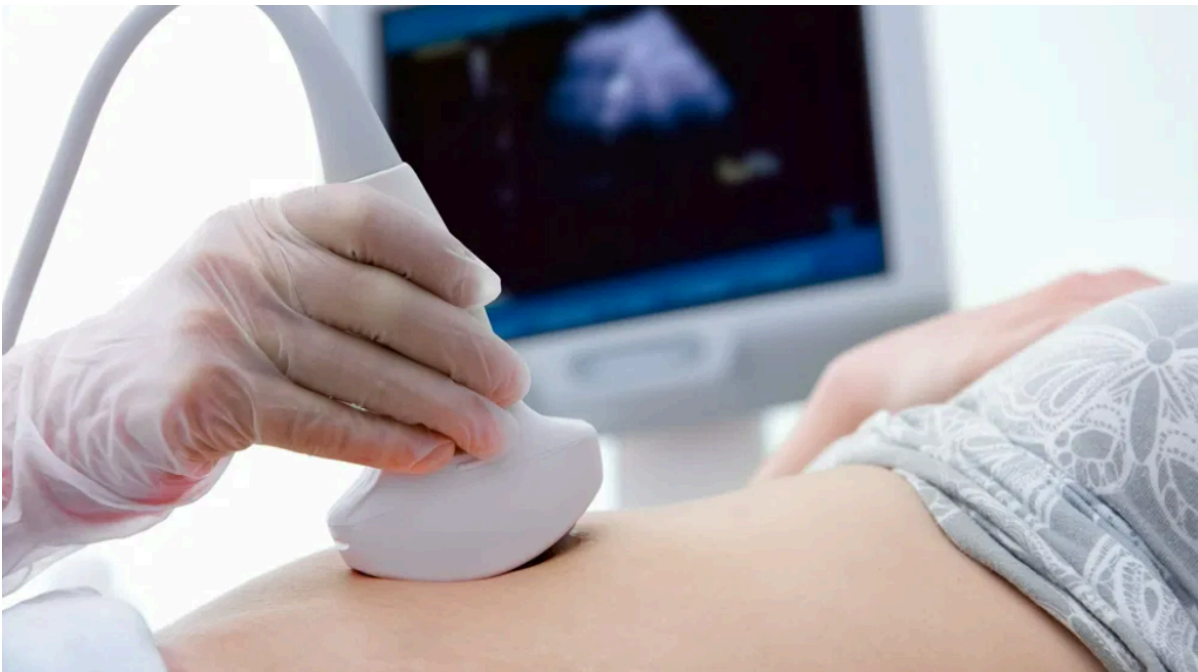


April 25: Liver Disease Awareness Day and Free Exams at Rio Imagem

Partnership between the Rio de Janeiro Liver Group and the State Health Department provides guidance to the population and helps reduce the waiting list for liver elastography exams, which detect disease severity in patients



On April 25, 200 liver elastography exams will be performed free of charge at Rio Imagem

A partnership between the Rio de Janeiro Liver Group and the State Health Department will provide information on risk factors and diagnosis of liver diseases, as well as offer free liver elastography exams, helping to reduce the existing demand in Brazil's public healthcare system (SUS – Unified Health System). The initiative is scheduled for April 25 (Saturday) at Rio Imagem, a state-run diagnostic network that offers medium- and high-complexity exams such as MRI, CT scans, and mammography free of charge through SUS, focusing on non-invasive diagnostics. Approximately 200 patients are expected to be served.

During the event, educational videos will be shown and informational materials will be distributed to Rio Imagem users and their companions. These materials will include information about major liver diseases, such as viral hepatitis B and C, metabolic-associated steatotic liver

disease, and alcohol-related liver disease, as well as their risk factors and the exams used to assess chronic liver conditions.

According to data from the State of Rio de Janeiro's regulatory system, around 2,000 people across the state are currently waiting for this type of exam, which allows physicians to more quickly determine the severity of liver disease in patients who are either undergoing or awaiting treatment. Currently, patients face an average waiting time of about one year. Liver elastography is a non-invasive imaging test, similar to ultrasound, that measures liver stiffness and elasticity. It is essential for detecting fibrosis, cirrhosis, and steatosis (fatty liver). It is considered a safe and painless alternative to biopsy for diagnosing and monitoring chronic liver diseases.

For this initiative, six specialized machines will be available, along with 14 specialists to answer questions and provide guidance on liver conditions. Patients are referred through the State Regulation System, based on requests from physicians working in public healthcare units across the state.

Although these exams are already available through SUS, supply remains insufficient given the growing demand. Therefore, this initiative is particularly important as part of the Rio de Janeiro Liver Group's activities for World Liver Day, celebrated on April 19. According to hepatologist Gustavo Pereira, the elastography initiative at Rio Imagem reflects the direction that medical societies should take. *"Today, the role of a medical society must go beyond scientific activities. It is essential to promote initiatives that bring knowledge to the public and support public authorities in decision-making to accelerate diagnosis and treatment actions for the population"*, he states.

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