



MONTECATONE REHABILITATION INSTITUTE



SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE
EMILIA-ROMAGNA
Istituto di Montecatone

Ospedale di riabilitazione

MONTECATONE
REHABILITATION INSTITUTE S.p.A.



A Highly Specialized Hospital

The Montecatone Rehabilitation Institute is a public hospital specializing in the rehabilitation of people with spinal cord or severe brain injuries.

At Montecatone, care and rehabilitation go hand in hand with a deep commitment to the individual. Patients are supported step by step in regaining autonomy and building a new daily life, with the goal of returning to their home areas with a renewed life plan compatible with any acquired disability.

Helping people rediscover a sense of possibility is at the heart of Montecatone's daily work.

A National Center of Excellence

Montecatone has unique expertise in the rehabilitation of spinal cord and severe brain injuries, making it a recognized national reference center.

Every year, the Institute admits around 700 patients, more than 60% coming from outside the Emilia-Romagna region, and manages numerous Day Hospital visits and specialist outpatient services. The Spinal Unit is the largest in Italy, both in terms of bed numbers and the volume and complexity of cases treated.

A unique feature is the intensive/sub-intensive care unit for critically ill patients, allowing early rehabilitation, essential for recovery and regaining independence.

700

ADMISSIONS PER YEAR

84%

SPINAL CORD INJURIES

16%

BRAIN INJURIES



A Key Role in the Network

Montecatone has strengthened its role as a high-specialty hospital through collaborations with care providers and research centers, promoting a networked approach. Strategic partnerships include Trauma Centers and hospitals of the Regional Health Authorities of Emilia-Romagna.

As a matter of fact, within the Emilia-Romagna region, Montecatone is the main hub for intensive rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injuries and one of three reference centers for severe acquired brain injuries.

The Hospital

The Montecatone Rehabilitation Institute is located 5 km from Imola (BO), in a hilly area at 200 meters above sea level, at the center of a 40,000 m² park.

The facility includes four inpatient wards across four floors, a Day Hospital, Specialist Outpatient Clinics, and Imaging Services, covering an internal area of over 15,000 m².



The facility has **150** ordinary inpatient beds and **8** Day Hospital beds.

Critical Care Unit

7

beds – Intensive Care

11

beds – Sub-Intensive Care

1

Rehabilitation Gym

Spinal Unit

88

beds

4

Rehabilitation Gyms

Severe Acquired Brain Injury Unit

22

beds

2

Rehabilitation Gyms

Specialized Care Unit

22

beds

1

Rehabilitation Gym

Day Hospital

8

beds

1

Rehabilitation Gym

Specialist Outpatient Clinics

Diagnosis and treatment of spasticity ...

Diagnosis and treatment of neurogenic bowel

Functional surgery evaluation and rehabilitation programs for limbs ...

Cognitive and behavioral rehabilitation

Evaluation and treatment of neurogenic bladder ...

Evaluation and treatment of pressure injuries

Our Care and Services Offer



Critical Care Unit



Spinal Unit



**Severe Acquired
Brain Injury Unit**



Specialized Care Unit



**Day Hospital and Specialist
Outpatient Clinics**

Critical Care Unit

The unit delivers intensive and sub-intensive care. Early intervention by a multidisciplinary team combines clinical stabilization with immediate rehabilitation. Care intensity-based ward organization ensures flexible and integrated management to maximize functional recovery.

Spinal Unit

The unit cares for patients with severe spinal cord injuries immediately after trauma or illness. The environment supports maximum independence and active reintegration into daily life. A dedicated wing serves post-acute patients, mainly from home.

Severe Acquired Brain Injury Unit

The unit specializes in acute rehabilitation after severe brain injuries, with attention to disorders of consciousness following prolonged coma. The team addresses clinical, cognitive, motor, and behavioral recovery.

Specialized Care Unit

This ward provides care for non-acute patients requiring treatment for complications such as:

- pressure injuries
- upper and lower limb functional surgery
- urological issues
- spasticity
- neuropathic pain

Day Hospital

The Day Hospital provides care for:

- recently discharged patients continuing rehabilitation
- former patients resuming scheduled therapy
- new patients needing targeted treatment for spinal cord or brain injuries

Personalized and focused rehabilitation is ensured while maintaining continuity of care.

Specialist Outpatient Clinics and Services

The operational units integrate the rehabilitation pathway with specialized activities and dedicated services, such as:

- neurogenic bladder clinic
- gastroenterology clinic
- spasticity clinic
- sexuality and fertility clinic
- neurology and neuropsychology clinic
- wound care for pressure injuries
- speech therapy and psychological support
- upper and lower limb surgery and rehabilitation





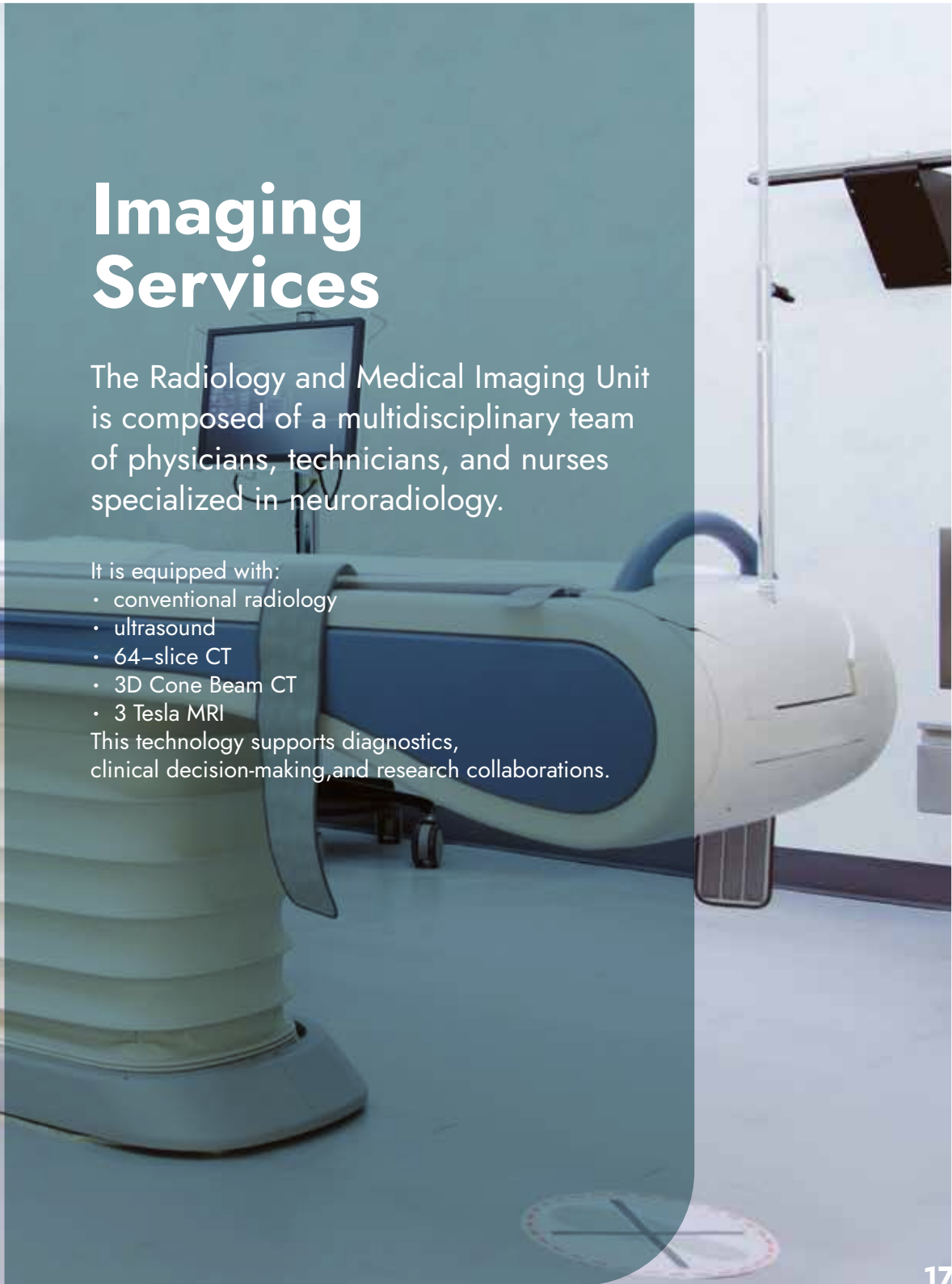
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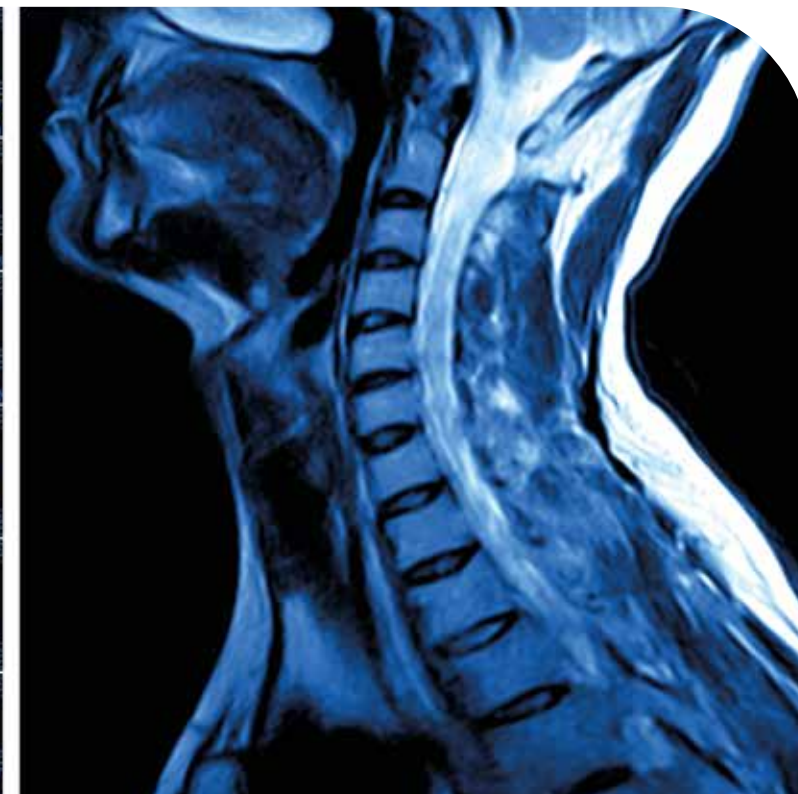
The Radiology and Medical Imaging Unit is composed of a multidisciplinary team of physicians, technicians, and nurses specialized in neuroradiology.

It is equipped with:

- conventional radiology
- ultrasound
- 64-slice CT
- 3D Cone Beam CT
- 3 Tesla MRI

This technology supports diagnostics, clinical decision-making, and research collaborations.







Patient-centered Care

Rehabilitation is multidisciplinary, integrating clinical and social aspects.

Each patient benefits from an individualized care plan that defines:

- intervention areas
- rehabilitation goals
- methods and timing of treatments
- professionals involved
- monitoring and evaluation

Targets and outcomes are tracked by the team of specialists and shared with the patient, their family or caregiver.

Gym

Every unit includes a gym with physiotherapists providing personalized programs for motor, cognitive, and functional recovery. Beyond the standard gym equipment, the hospital offers innovative tools for advanced rehabilitation, including:

- robotic exoskeletons
- treadmills
- BNCI (Brain-Neural Computer Interface) systems
- electrostimulation devices for swallowing muscles
- tDCS (transcranial direct current stimulation)

Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapy at Montecatone supports the recovery and maintenance of daily living and work skills for people with disabilities. Occupational therapists implement targeted strategies to promote personal autonomy, including rehabilitation programs in the historic park, which features a dedicated area for wheelchair independence training.

Assistive Devices Service

The Assistive Devices Service plays a key role in the rehabilitation pathway by providing the main types of aids and wheelchairs. It works closely with orthopedic technicians, ward teams, and patients' local services to identify, prescribe, and deliver personalized assistive devices, essential for a safe return home.

Robotic Gym

Rehabilitation supported by robotic systems offers numerous advantages:

- more intensive, specific, and appropriate performance
- high flexibility of application
- solutions easily integrated into everyday life
- motivating and varied treatments

Robotic devices enable movements that would otherwise be impossible, such as walking with exoskeletons. Thanks to visual, auditory, and kinesthetic feedback exchanged with the patient during exercises, robotic rehabilitation also has a positive psychological impact and increases the patient's active participation in treatment.

Access to the Robotic gym is primarily focused on recovery in three key areas:

- upper limb functionality
- trunk control
- gait training



Sports and Physical Activity

At Montecatone, sports are considered a fundamental tool to enhance the outcomes of rehabilitation. Within the framework of personalized programs, patients can experience a variety of paralympic sports, including tennis, basketball, swimming, archery, shooting, table tennis, cycling, golf, and fencing.

The “Re-education through Sports” program takes place both within the Institute and in sports facilities open to the public, promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities in social life. Montecatone collaborates with the Italian Paralympic Committee to facilitate the continuation of sports practice after discharge.

Driving Orientation Program

To promote the greatest possible autonomy before discharge, Montecatone offers a dedicated driving orientation program, which includes:

- informative sessions on regulations and available adapted driving options
- assessment of residual functional abilities through a driving simulator
- practical driving trials with different types of controls available on the market
- support for obtaining or converting to a special driving license

Hydrotherapy Pool

The hospital has a pool for hydrotherapy, equipped with solutions to facilitate water access. Hydrotherapy complements gym-based activities in achieving personal rehabilitation goals, leveraging the physical properties of water and the microgravity environment in which both patient and physiotherapist are immersed.

Sessions are conducted at approximately 33°C and utilize floating equipment and aids, while the pool’s three different depth levels allow treatments to be diversified, personalized, and targeted according to individual objectives.

Empowerment and Independent Living

Activities such as Animal-Assisted Interventions, School in Hospital, outings, and recreational workshops help patients and families explore the possibility of a full life after discharge.

Particular emphasis is placed on the contribution of “Experts by Experience” — individuals who have been leading active and fulfilling lives despite their disabilities, providing practical and motivating support.



LifeBridge

The LifeBridge Apartment — or “Bridge to Life” — is designed to allow inpatients to assess the autonomy they have achieved in daily domestic life and self-care, preparing them to transition from the protected hospital environment back home. It is a fully independent apartment within the hospital, featuring a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, living room, and a private garden. Facing everyday challenges independently enables patients nearing discharge to refine their rehabilitation strategies, strengthening both their own confidence as well as the caregiver’s.

Social and Educational Service

The Social and Educational Service supports patients and their families relying on the expertise of Social Workers and Professional Educators. From the early stages of hospitalization, Social Workers initiate programs to create optimal contextual conditions, facilitating the patient’s reintegration at home and/or within their local community.

Professional Educators assist individuals who need to rethink and reorganize their lives, helping them to (re)discover a sense of possibility and purpose.

Psychological Support

Two psychologists, specialized in psychotherapy with specific expertise in post-traumatic issues, accompany patients through individual sessions during the rehabilitation pathway. They address the distress arising both from recent traumatic event and the awareness of bodily changes, supporting patients’ ability to tolerate psychological discomfort while encouraging adherence to the therapeutic program.

Cognitive and Behavioral Rehabilitation Program

This program provides targeted rehabilitation for cognitive disabilities (memory, attention, logical reasoning, etc.), as well as for language, motor, and behavioral disorders in inpatients or Day Hospital patients. The plan is delivered by a multidisciplinary team including a neurologist, reference physiatrists, speech therapists, and a neuropsychologist.





Research and Innovation

Research and innovation play a strategic role and are essential pillars of medical and rehabilitative care.

The Institute promotes basic, preclinical, and clinical research both as a means to improve the quality of care for patients with severe spinal and/or brain injuries, in accordance with the principles of evidence-based medicine, and to identify and develop new and innovative therapeutic solutions capable of altering the natural course of disease.

Montecatone participates in multicenter projects with national and international partners, recognizing that the sharing of data and experiences accelerates therapeutic and care advances.

The Institute also collaborates with biomedical and pharmaceutical companies to introduce validated, innovative technologies that support rehabilitation and post-injury functional improvement, with particular attention to the needs of patients and their families.

Education and Training

Montecatone is actively involved in training new professionals in the field of rehabilitation. The Institute collaborates with the Degree Program in Physiotherapy, at the Imola campus, as well as with the Residency Program in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, at the University of Bologna. Agreements are in place with Italian and European institutes and universities to provide internships in the rehabilitation sector.

Finally, Montecatone is an official CME (Continuing Medical Education) provider, offering ongoing professional training in medicine.

Montecatone Rehabilitation Institute

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