



FINDING PROSTATE CANCER? *YES, We Scan!*

multi parametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging (mpMRI)

- Gives an overall picture with highly defined 3D colour images
- Particularly useful for those men with an elevated Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test
- Only one or two biopsies are usually required

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Dr. Daynes on the left and me on the right.

There have been major advances in the detection of prostate cancer over the last few years. The most significant of these is the multi parametric Magnetic Resonance Imaging (mpMRI).

This can be done with a Three Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner and the use of specific software called ProCAD. This gives an overall picture with highly defined 3D colour images down to the molecular level. These images provide information about aspects such as cell density, circulation and about the aggressiveness of possible prostate cancer. This compares with a conventional two dimensional MRI which is made in black and white where a tumour may be observed as a grey mark.

Dr. Neil Gordon (Cairns Urology) and Dr. Kevin Daynes at Cairns Radiology have completed training in multi-parametric MRI at RadboudUMC at Nijmegen in the Netherlands under the direction of Prof. Dr. Jelle Barentsz whose department leads the world in this field. They are members of the Prostate MR Centers of Excellence Network which include 10 other sites worldwide. Cairns is one of three sites in Australia and so can be considered at the forefront of prostate cancer diagnosis and management. In addition, Cairns will be the first site to have the Soteria Remote Controlled

Manipulator. This is a “robot” which is used to obtain extremely accurate biopsies of the prostate which must be carried out to find the exact type of cancer present.

Multi-parametric MRI is particularly useful for those men with an elevated Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test who have had previous biopsies which have shown no sign of prostate cancer to define the prostate more accurately. This will improve their continued management significantly.

Multi-parametric MRI requires the man to lie on his back for usually less than half an hour. It is not necessary to use probes in the rectum. If the “screening” MRI detects an area of suspected tumour, a biopsy will be required on a separate occasion. Only one or two biopsies are usually required with MRI. This compares with the previous 8-10 and sometimes up to 40 in some clinics being under general anaesthetic with a night in hospital!

A lot of prostate cancers have been found to not threaten a man’s lifestyle or lifespan and are therefore not regarded as requiring major treatment but can continue to be monitored in case changes occur. The MRI is essential for this as there is no other form of imaging with comparable accuracy.

Multi-parametric MRI of the prostate will be available from April 2015.

*J. Barentsz J O, “One-Stop Diagnosis of Prostate Cancer”
Department of Radiology, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.*



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