

New Technology Diagnoses Prostate Cancer at Brisbane Private Imaging

Brisbane Private Imaging (BPI) now has the ability to diagnose, monitor and stage prostate cancer thanks to upgrades to the MRI suite.

The new software and hardware package enables multi-parametric prostate imaging which is sensitive for the detection of prostatic cancer.

The machine itself is a wide bore 3T MRI and provides highly accurate diagnostic imaging with excellent soft tissue resolution and multiplanar capabilities. It's a high-field strength machine that produces superb images of all body regions, particularly the spine and joints.

BPI also recently installed an OPG and lateral cephalogram machine and is now taking referrals from dentists, orthodontists, oral surgeons and general practitioners for these examinations.

The state-of-the-art radiology department, located in Brisbane Private Hospital, is privately owned by four, experienced and respected radiologists - doctors John McGuire, David Lisle, Greg Cowderoy and Paul O'Connell.

The practice houses a comprehensive range of imaging equipment

including a 64 slice CT scanner, two ultrasound machines, a screening unit and digital radiography.

Chief radiographer David Kinnane said BPI prided itself on consistently high standards of imaging and reporting.

"The practice does not use locum radiologists and employs full time nursing staff to assist with the care of your patients both before and after their scans and procedures," Mr Kinnane said.

"We are committed to high quality imaging, reporting and procedural work, with most requests for procedures, including diagnostic ultrasounds scans, able to be accommodated on the day of referral.

"The radiologists are always available for consultation and are happy to talk to referrers at any time."

Mr Kinnane said BPI focussed on making the imaging suites a comfortable environment for patients.

"We have positioned our MRI in a room that is bathed in natural light to help make the scanning experience far less intimidating for patients, particularly for larger patients or

those who suffer from claustrophobia,” he said.

BPI also specialises in image guided procedures, including CT guided nerve root and facet joint blocks, and ultrasound guided procedures such as bursal injections of the shoulder and hip, injections of small joints and tendon sheaths of the wrist, hand and foot, and aspiration for calcific tendinitis of the rotator cuff tendons.

For more permanent pain relief, Dr O’Connell performs CT guided radio frequency ablations of various neural structures, including medial branch nerves in the spine.

BPI bulk bills all Medicare rebatable MRI items for GP referred adult and paediatric patients.

A limited MRI licence has been granted to Brisbane Private Imaging (BPI) allowing rebates for certain clinical indications in adult patients aged 16 years and over referred by a GP.

The clinical indications covered by the new rebates include:

- MRI of the brain for unexplained seizure and unexplained chronic headache with suspected intracranial pathology
- MRI of the cervical spine for radiculopathy and trauma
- MRI of the knee following acute trauma with inability to extend the knee

