

# ADIA Update

## *Diagnostic Imaging: More than 'just an image'*



### Scans

For many patients, diagnostic imaging is encapsulated by this single word. What patients often do not realise is that diagnostic imaging is far more than just a scan. Diagnostic imaging plays a critical and complex role in diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of conditions ranging from a torn tendon to all forms of cancer.

Over the last decade alone, advances in diagnostic imaging technology and techniques, such as the use of contrast imaging, have increased the utility of diagnostic imaging for all patients. Additionally, radiology has expanded to include not only diagnostic, but interventional procedures. This has resulted in safer, more accurate procedures that ensure the best outcome for patients and reduce the burden to the healthcare system.

In breast cancer, for example, the use of mammography plays an essential part in diagnosis. While this modality is the principal tool for early diagnosis, the technology has a number of limitations, particularly for women with dense breasts. With the advent of Contrast-Enhanced Spectral Mammography (CESM) those limitations are becoming a thing of the past. These developments ensure that breast cancer can be detected early even in more complex cases, saving the lives of countless Australian women each year.

Prostate cancer is a similar story. Until recently, diagnostic imaging has not been able to assist with the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. Now, Prostate mpMRI and MRI-guided biopsy are revolutionising the patient

journey, ensuring earlier, more accurate diagnosis and eliminating the need for dozens of invasive procedures. This non-invasive approach to diagnosis will encourage men to stop putting off potentially life-saving examinations and increase the likelihood of early diagnosis.

These are just two examples that demonstrate the value that radiology provides both individual patients and the healthcare system as a whole. The misconception that diagnostic imaging is 'just an image' can be overcome by demonstrating the true value of radiology to the wider community. It is time to shed light on the often unseen value that the radiology brings to bear when a patient needs it most.

In order to educate policy makers about radiology, ADIA is holding a Morning Tea at Parliament House in Canberra to celebrate the 4th annual International Day of Radiology this November. The focus of the event will be advances in breast and prostate imaging in an effort to build a greater awareness of the significant role the radiologist plays in the patient journey.

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The views expressed are those of ADIA and publication of this article does not in any way constitute an endorsement by The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR).