

Canterbury Bankstown

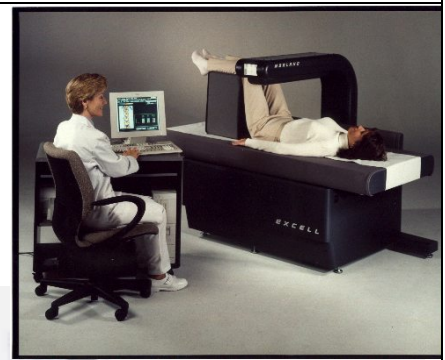


Nuclear Imaging



SNIG: Spring 2009

Dr. Phil Monaghan FRACP; Dr. Bob Dickinson FRACP FRACR; Dr. Pat Donnelly FRACP;
Dr. George Larcos FRACP, and Dr. Bill Mouratidis FRACP. Details www.snig.com.au



Update on Canterbury Bankstown

As you will be aware, after almost twenty years of continuous service to the Bankstown and surrounding areas, we continue to upgrade our Nuclear Medicine practice at **56 Meredith Street** to provide comprehensive “state of the art” nuclear medicine procedures. As announced in a recent newsletter, we have also installed a **Norland Excell Bone Mineral Densitometer (DEXA)** and provide a BMD service on a daily basis. To save your patient time, we can even schedule their DEXA BMD to be performed before commencing their nuclear medicine bone scan or other nuclear medicine procedure.

We have been very busy this year planning, installing and commissioning a **virtual private network (VPN)** between all of our Southern Nuclear Imaging sites. This will facilitate many improvements to our service. The proposed improvements include: the introduction of updated and **improved secure electronic document delivery** (introducing **ARGUS Connect**), improved collaborative reporting between our nuclear medicine physicians and most importantly, for all concerned, access to **referrers to their patient’s scans and reports over the Web (WWW)**.

Bone Mineral Densitometry (BMD) at Canterbury Bankstown Nuclear Imaging

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, in response to requests to provide Bone Mineral Densitometry (BMD) services at our Meredith Street rooms we have installed a Norland Excell DEXA unit. Our physicians have vast experience in interpreting DEXA scans and our technologists are licensed and accredited. Southern Nuclear Imaging has operated units at Wollongong and Nowra for over fifteen years at each location. This experience ensures a superior BMD service for your patients encompassing robust quality assurance and consequently guaranteed reproducibility of results. Keep in mind that we can perform BMD prior to isotope bone scanning. Convenient same day service is available on most days. See <http://www.nuclearimaging.com.au/BMD%20PAge.htm> for more information.

ARGUS Connect: What is it? How can it help you?

Argus is a communication tool kit that runs on any computer alongside existing clinical software and provides safe, simple and secure transfer of clinical and patient data. Argus uses email as the transport mechanism for clinical document transfer, but overlays a range of security and reliability features that enhance email to become a safe mechanism for clinical use. Patient privacy and security is assured by use of PKI encryption, computer-to-computer interoperability is provided by the HL7 Standard message structure.

The **Argus suite** (<http://www.argusconnect.com.au/content/argus-general-practitioners>) (<http://www.argusconnect.com.au/content/argus-medical-specialists>) has been designed so that there is products that suit the whole range of professional health practices.

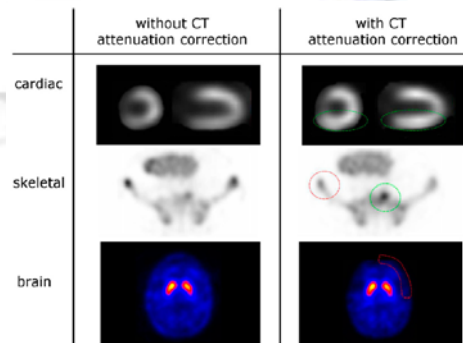
Put **more simply**, through ARGUS Connect we will be able to securely send (email) your **Canterbury Bankstown Nuclear Imaging reports** to your practice where you can seamlessly import them into your patients' file within your practice management system (similar to Promedius.net). This may be **Medical Director** or any one of the other systems available. When you open your patient's file you will have the report immediately available to view.

Direct Access to your Patient's Scans Electronically

As notified in our previous newsletter (Autumn 2009) a number of options are being explored to provide you and your colleague's simple, fast and user friendly access to digital copies of patient's scans. We are aware of the increasing number of practices who are going "paperless" and some who prefer to be "filmless". We anticipate that eventually everyone will see the benefits of easily accessed and stored e-film. With our proposal it will not be necessary to download any data to your workstation. We anticipate that you will be able to view the images either as jpegs (pictures which are exactly the same as the film or paper hardcopy) or AVI's (the same as the current coloured laminated paper version yet a controllable "movie" version) directly from our server. Examples of movie (AVI's) displays could be your patient's Gated Heart Pool Scan or even the comparison or quantification displays of the myocardial perfusion scans. This will bring the images to life; something impossible with hard copy.

Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography/Computed Tomography (SPECT/CT)

The utility of SPECT/CT (Hybrid Imaging) has exceeded all expectations. Our General Electric **Hawkeye 4 hybrid camera** has revolutionised our practice of nuclear medicine and improved the diagnostic confidence through combined CT **localisation** and **attenuation correction** of our tomographic images. As you have noticed on the images you receive, our "hot (or cold) spots" can now be seen with anatomical details provided by the low dose CT. For myocardial perfusion imaging, you will notice "CORRECTED" and "NON-CORRECTED" comparison (Stress/Rest) images. The "correction" is achieved through the low dose CT attenuation correction. Non-corrected images are displayed to highlight the effect of attenuation on the images.



Information for You and Your Patient

The Australian and New Zealand Association of Physicians in Nuclear Medicine have produced two brochures aimed at demystifying nuclear medicine for the patient and providing a concise and up-to-date guide to referrers. We will attempt to ensure that these are freely available to all. Meanwhile, have a look at www.snig.com.au and locate .pdf versions of the documents.

Canterbury Bankstown Nuclear Imaging (Bankstown): Ph- 02 97084555; Fax- 02 97906064
56 Meredith Street Bankstown NSW.

Bateman's Bay Regional Nuclear Imaging (Batemans Bay) Ph- 02 44726012; Fax- 02 44727122

Illawarra Nuclear Imaging (Wollongong): Ph- 02 42261755; Fax- 02 42273164

Shoalhaven Nuclear Imaging (Nowra): Ph- 02 44231944; Fax- 02 44230610

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