



The Royal Australian  
and New Zealand  
College of Radiologists®

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*InsideRadiology*: [www.insideradiology.com.au](http://www.insideradiology.com.au)

## Improve Your Patient's Image – announcing the launch of a world leading radiology website

*The RANZCR is pleased to announce the public launch of InsideRadiology.*

Australian clinicians now have an independent website which is a one stop shop for key clinical information about imaging investigations and their alternatives as well as offering consumer friendly, on-the-spot print outs for patients.

"When you're requesting many imaging investigations every day, it's easy to assume that patients are as relaxed about them as you are," said Associate Professor Stacy Goergen of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR). "It's also easy to assume you're choosing the right test and understand the risks versus benefits. But diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology is a rapidly changing field and selecting the most appropriate test can be a challenge.

"The *InsideRadiology* website is an excellent independent source of reliable, up to date, and accurate information for referrers compiled by subspecialists recognised for their knowledge and expertise," said A/Prof Goergen, who led this Australian Government funded project for the RANZCR.

"Over 70 information items are available **and most have a section specifically for referrers**. It's a quick and easy way for clinicians and their patients to get more information about procedures such as CT coronary angiography, ultrasound, MRI, X-rays, and general angiography as well as issues that apply to many radiology investigations and interventions, such as the risks of iodine-containing contrast media, gadolinium chelates, and radiation," said A/Prof Goergen.

"For your patients, the scientific content written by radiologists, physicists, nuclear medicine physicians and others has been edited by consumer writers who have made it understandable without compromising its accuracy," said Ann Revell who is the project leader for the website development and a nominee of Breast Cancer Network Australia and Consumers Health Forum Australia for RANZCR.

"The individual items also can be printed out easily as information sheets for patients to take away with them," she added.

"We would like to see clinicians accessing both the information that is especially written for them as well as the consumer information section about the same item as we regard the information as complementary rather than duplication," said A/Prof Goergen.

"For example, say you have a 35 year-old patient with two female relatives recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She has read about screening with MRI for younger women with increased familial risk of breast cancer. She wonders whether this would be a good procedure for her to have even though she is currently asymptomatic. *InsideRadiology* provides detailed information about breast MRI in a number of places.

"In the **consumer section** there's a description of the procedure, what a woman needs to do to prepare herself for it, what to expect during the procedure, and what the risks versus benefits are.

"In the **professional section** there's a list of indications, information about specific issues like contrast reactions, timing of the MRI in relation to the menstrual cycle, and the risks of MRI contrast administration in patients with renal impairment.

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"Other sections of the database have general information items about MRI safety, and detailed information about MRI contrast agents (gadolinium chelates) that will be administered during the breast MRI procedure.

"There are various ways to get around the site and search for tests, including keyword searches and drop-down menus for all of the procedures on the site. One of the ways of searching is a human body diagram and if you click on a particular region, a list of investigations and interventions relating to that region appear on the side of the diagram," said A/Prof Goergen.

"Health consumers are becoming more aware of issues affecting their health and want access to timely, reliable information," said Ann Revell.

We've researched people's information needs in relation to imaging and are confident that ***InsideRadiology*** meets the needs of both clinicians and patients," she added.

"We hope that health professionals will recommend and use the site to save needless patient anxiety, support informed consent procedures, help ensure the test or procedure is an appropriate one for the clinical question, and to identify patients at increased risk who may need special preparation before being referred for imaging," said A/Prof Goergen.

"The information at ***InsideRadiology*** is not intended to substitute for a discussion between a radiologist and referrer about a particular patient's problem and how imaging may help with diagnosis and treatment. However, we hope that the site will facilitate a more informed discussion and a better experience for patients," A/Prof Goergen added.

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## **Background**

### ***InsideRadiology***

[www.insideradiology.com.au](http://www.insideradiology.com.au) is for consumers and health professionals to find out detailed and expert information about radiology tests and procedures. It is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and developed by the RANZCR in conjunction with many radiology experts and two consumer writers.

[www.insideradiology.com.au](http://www.insideradiology.com.au) contains about 70 items of detailed information, in the form of Q&A fact sheets on diagnostic imaging procedures for consumers and referrers. These can be read on line or printed out and taken to a health professional to facilitate discussion about risk, informed consent, and alternative tests or procedures. The information was developed by people nationally recognised as experts. Radiologists, physicists, nuclear medicine specialists and radiographers wrote the initial content, which was then made consumer-friendly by a team of lay writers. Each item has a link to specially designed information for clinicians which will help them choose the right test and keep up to date with changes in technology and indications for diagnosis and interventional treatments.

[www.insideradiology.com.au](http://www.insideradiology.com.au) offers clinically relevant information about all kinds of imaging from magnetic resonance (MRI), ultrasound, nuclear medicine, X-rays to other more advanced diagnostic and treatment procedures (like vertebroplasty for instance) carried out by radiologists.

[www.insideradiology.com.au](http://www.insideradiology.com.au) also has information for parents whose children may be having a scan or X-ray.

The ***InsideRadiology*** project was one of a number of quality and safety focussed projects managed by the RANZCR's Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging (QUDI) Program. This program was funded through an agreement with the Australian Department of Health and Ageing, and administered by the RANZCR.

### **The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)**

As a Fellowship based organisation, the mission of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists is to set, promote, and continuously improve the standards of training and practice in Radiology and Radiation Oncology, for the betterment of the people of Australia and New Zealand.

#### **Reference:**

1. National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission. A Healthier Future for all Australians. Final ed. Canberra: NHHRC, 2009.