



Magnetic Resonance Imaging

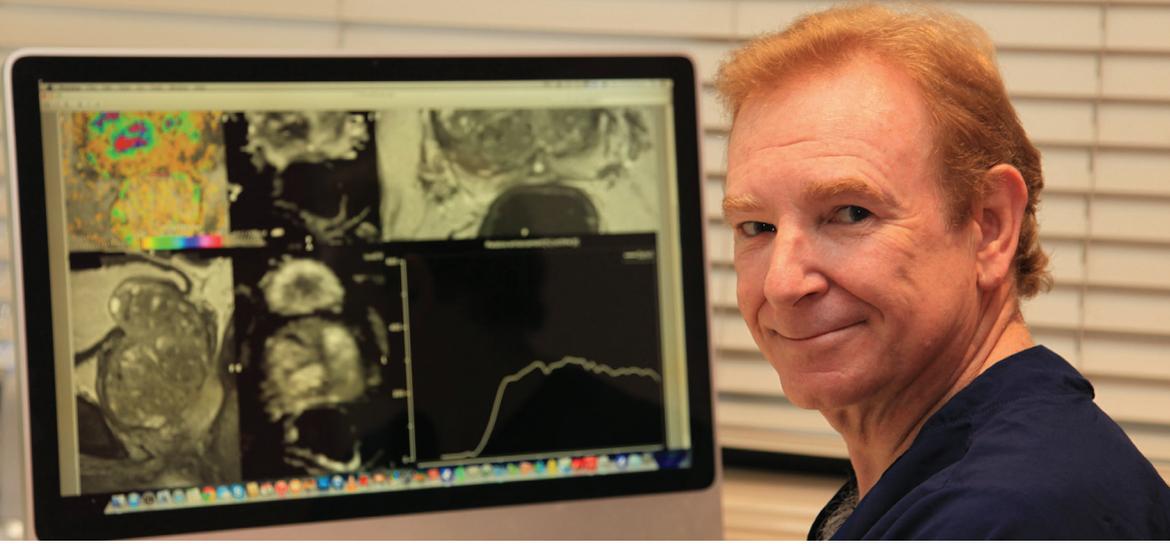
- Requires the man to lie on his back for usually less than half an hour.
- Particularly useful for those men with an elevated Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test who have had previous biopsies which have shown no sign of prostate cancer.
- Cairns has the availability of world standard MRI diagnosis of prostate cancer.

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FINDING PROSTATE CANCER?

YES, We Scan!

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).

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 improves 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. It is done with what is called a Three Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner and the use of specific software, one of which is 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.

Only patients with areas on the MRI which are regarded as suspicious for intermediate or high grade cancer require a biopsy to be taken. Usually this means one or two samples of each area.

The advantage of this is that it eliminates the need for what are called "saturation biopsies". These are done under a general anaesthetic and require a hospital stay using up valuable theatre time and occupying a bed unnecessarily. Cairns has the availability of world standard MRI diagnosis of prostate cancer which means that there is no need to travel for this investigation. In addition, Cairns has the availability of the Soteria Remote Controlled Manipulator. This is a "robot" which is used to obtain extremely accurate biopsies of the prostate to find the exact type of cancer present. 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 extremely helpful for this as there is no other form of imaging with comparable accuracy.

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