



26 August 2020

RANZCR Radiology Training Program Review Consultation 2020

The Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (ASMIRT) is the peak body representing medical radiation practitioners in Australia. Our aims are to promote, encourage, cultivate and maintain the highest principles of practice and proficiency of medical radiation science, always mindful that the welfare of the patient should be at the centre of everything we do. ASMIRT would like to extend its support to The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) regarding its review of the Radiology Training Program.

ASMIRT acknowledges that these documents are well written, comprehensive and provides structure and direction to clinical based learning and all the components and characteristics that require development. The training program detailed is very comprehensive and covers a broad range of requirements and expectations including all aspects and parameters of diagnostic radiography that would/should be expected.

ASMIRT would like to provide the following comments:

- It was noted that the CT and MRI modalities are not listed in the contents page.

In the MRI safety section of the document titled Clinical Radiology Training Program, the following amendments have been suggested:

Page 15 - It is expected that prior to working in an MRI suite the trainee has **read the RANZCR MRI Safety Manual**, completed a site-based MRI safety module, including education on:

- The MRI environment
- Access restriction
- Hazards and risks, **including projectiles, heating, SAR and burns (given that burns are the major MRI incident reported worldwide) - or, perhaps, this can be included as a separate sub-topic**
- Magnet quench
- Acoustic noise
- Radiofrequency and gradient coils
- MRI safety questionnaires
- ~~Relative and absolute contraindications~~ **The understanding of MR Safe, MR Conditional and MR Unsafe devices, along with other relative and absolute contra-indications**
- MRI and pregnancy
- MRI contrast and renal failure
- ~~Brain deposition of gadolinium~~ **The deposition of gadolinium in the brain and other organs**
- MRI emergencies

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Appendix 1 - Experiential Training Requirements in MRI, *ASMIRT suggests that the types of studies should be relisted in their order of number required, and the most commonly performed MRI examinations:*

- Brain 200
- Spine 150
- MSK 150
- Abdomen and Pelvis 100
- Head and Neck 50
- Paediatrics 50 (*ASMIRT seeks clarity on whether this number is sufficient, as more MRIs are being performed to reduce radiation exposure to children*)
- Chest 30 (*MRI of the chest is mostly/only cardiovascular/cardiac, so ASMIRT suggests that Chest including cardiovascular is not needed*)
- Breast 20

ASMIRT also would suggest the inclusion of co-reporting requirements in the following instances:

1. *If and when examinations need to be co-reported*
2. *If cardiac MRIs need to be co-reported with a cardiologist.*
3. *If breast MRIs need to be co-reported with two radiologists.*

For the RANZCR learning outcomes document:

Section 1.3

Where it mentions leadership skills and education, it does not mention empowering other health professions for the benefit of the patient. ASMIRT suggests that empowerment is a key leadership and educational skill and would link to the learning outcome of health advocate.

In Imaging Technology MRI:

Section 2.2.76, contains several sub-headings. These apply to all sequences, not just DWI sequences. *ASMIRT suggests that these should be separated, and probably placed between Sections 2.2.72 and 2.2.73.*

ASMIRT recommends that The subheading on MRS perhaps be moved to the suggested list of ‘advanced MRI techniques’ with fMRI, etc.

Section 2.2.77 *ASMIRT recommends that it be restructured:*

- In relation to MRI, broadly describe:

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a) Instrumentation

- Magnets
- Gradient coils
- RF coils and electronics

b) Advanced MR technologies

- Hybrid PET/MR
- Intraoperative MRI
- *Advanced MR techniques, including fMRI, quantitative MRI, there may be other examples to list here.*

For Safety in Magnetic Resonance Imaging:

2.3.33

- Discuss safety issues (patient and environmental) and contra-indications in the use of MRI, including:
 - static magnetic field
 - gradient magnetic field
 - radiofrequency magnetic field
 - pregnancy, lactation **and breastfeeding**
 - common implants, including **passive and active implants, and MR-Conditional implants**
 - emergencies, **including medical emergencies**, quenches and fires

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