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Validus:

strong / mighty / powerful / healthy

robust / able

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Specialist profiles

Perth Cardiovascular Institute

Prof. Gerry O'Driscoll

MB, BCh, BAO, DMed, PhD, FRACP, FCSANZ, FESC

Gerry O'Driscoll graduated from University College Cork, Ireland and completed advanced cardiology training in Western Australia. Having worked at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne as a transplant cardiologist, he was appointed as consultant cardiologist and medical Head of the Western Australian Advanced Heart Failure Service and Cardiac Transplant Unit at Royal Perth Hospital.

Apart from general cardiology, Prof. O'Driscoll's areas of special interest include risk factor modification, heart failure, cardiac intensive care, cardiomyopathy and pulmonary hypertension. He is skilled in cardiac catheterisation and non-invasive cardiac imaging.

Widely published in the field of cardiology, Prof. O'Driscoll leads the Cardiovascular Research Group at Royal Perth Hospital and holds appointments as Professor at the University of Western Australia and the University of Notre Dame. He is a reviewer for various international medical journals and also serves as reviewer for several national funding bodies, including the National Health and Medical Research Council and National Heart Foundation.

Dr Jamie Rankin

MBBS (WA) FRACP FCSANZ

Jamie Rankin graduated from the University of Western Australia and trained in all aspects of adult cardiology at Royal Perth Hospital. He subsequently undertook further training in cardiology in Perth at Royal Perth Hospital, and in Canada at the Vancouver General Hospital.

Dr Rankin is a visiting cardiologist at Royal Perth Hospital, with ongoing commitment to general cardiology, echocardiography and interventional cardiology.

He participates in the 24 hour on-call angioplasty service for the treatment of acute myocardial infarction offered at Royal Perth Hospital and Hollywood Private Hospital. He also maintains a keen interest in clinical trials and research.

SKG Radiology

Dr Lawrence Dembo

MBBS (WA) FRACP FCSANZ

Lawrence Dembo graduated from the University of Western Australia.

He is currently the director of cardiac imaging with SKG, which has the largest radiology network in Western Australia.

He is level 3 accredited by the Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance and provides the largest clinical cardiac MRI program in the country, and a high throughput clinical 64 slice CT program.

The Siemens Avanto MRI, Toshiba Acquilion 64 slice CT scanners and multi-vendor 3D imaging lab provide access to the highest international standard of hardware, software and cardiologist-based same day reporting.

Lawrence also holds an appointment as a consultant cardiologist in the Cardiac Transplant/Cardiac Failure state-wide service at Royal Perth Hospital.

He is clinically trained in transthoracic, transoesophageal, contrast and stress echocardiography. He is highly skilled in performing and reporting of coronary angiography as well as in resuscitation, diagnostic and therapeutic techniques.

Dr Peter Robins

MBBS FRANZCR

Dr Peter Robins is a University of Western Australia Medical School graduate with special interest and expertise in tumour imaging (including PET), musculoskeletal and sports imaging, nuclear cardiology and has a research interest in multi-modality image co-registration. He joined SKG Radiology in 1999 as a consultant radiologist and specialist in nuclear medicine after completing appointments at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota and Hammersmith Hospital in London.

Dr Robins provides Nuclear Medicine and Radiology reporting at SKG Radiology Subiaco and Murdoch and also holds an appointment at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

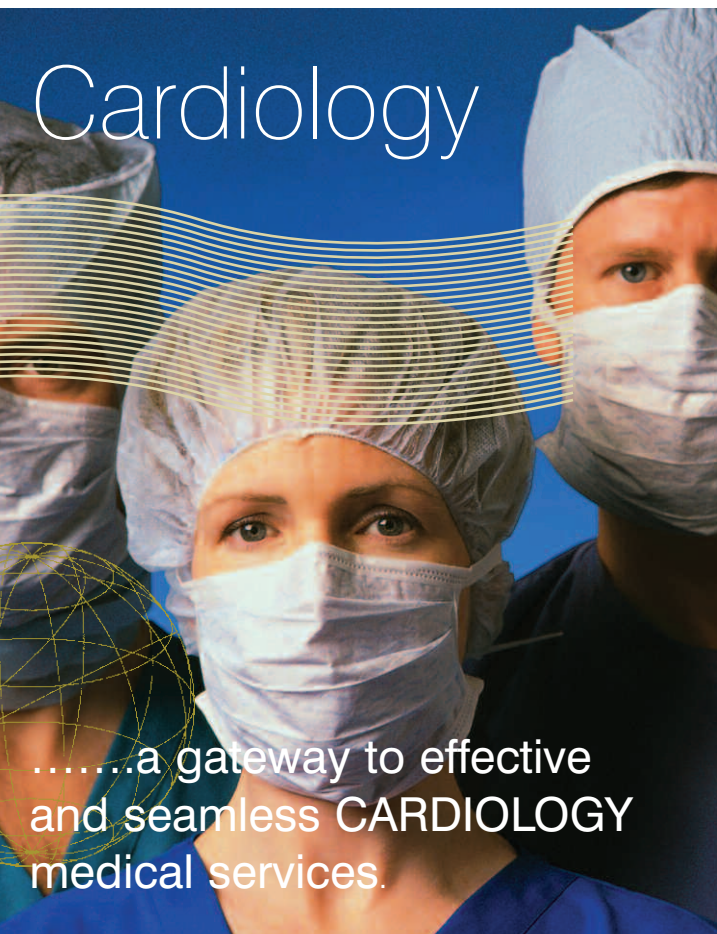
About Validus

Validus coordinates and provides a wide range of personalised services to international patients and healthcare professionals seeking priority access to world-class healthcare systems and facilities in Perth, Western Australia.

We understand patients' and healthcare professionals' requirements and provide a gateway to effective and seamless medical and administrative solutions.

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Validus International Health Services Management



Perth Cardiovascular Institute

Perth Cardiovascular Institute was opened in January 1999. It is a private cardiology service based at Hollywood Private Hospital in Nedlands, WA with seven satellite offices spread across the Perth metropolitan area. A country clinic at Esperance, WA is conducted regularly.

The practice offers the latest in modern facilities and equipment with the combined expertise of five cardiologists and four associates. The practice consulting rooms, in conjunction with the Hospital's fully integrated 24-hour emergency cardiac assessment unit, coronary care unit, procedural laboratories and non-invasive investigation and consulting rooms, are conveniently located together in a purpose-designed single department complex. This allows a comprehensive assessment, treatment and intervention service in a coordinated unit.

The Institute places a high priority on continuing education, always staying up to date with the latest treatments and procedures.

Consultations, ECG, echo, exercise testing, holter, event and blood pressure monitoring are available from the Perth Cardiovascular Institute at Hollywood Private Hospital and at its peripheral centres.

Cardiac non-invasive investigations offered by the Institute include:

ECG / Exercise testing / Echocardiography, including transoesophageal echo and stress echo
Holter monitoring / Event monitoring
Ambulatory BP monitoring.

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PERTH
CARDIOVASCULAR
INSTITUTE



Services and facilities available adjacent to the Institute's rooms include:

Emergency Cardiac Assessment Unit

- Five monitored beds with direct ambulance access
- Round the clock staffing
- Located adjacent to the Coronary Care Unit and angioplasty facilities
- This unit also functions as an acute admissions area for non-cardiac conditions

Coronary Care Unit

- 10 fully monitored beds with en-suites
- Round the clock staffing
- Adjacent to consulting rooms, invasive and non-invasive investigation areas

Cardiology Ward

- 20 cardiology beds
- Telemetry monitoring for 16 patients

Coronary Investigation and Interventional Laboratories

- Elective coronary angiography and angioplasty
- Acute infarction angioplasty (24 hour service)
- Non-cardiac vascular investigation and intervention available for radiology and vascular surgery
- Electrophysiology investigation and intervention (including arrhythmia ablation and pacemaker implants)
- Percutaneous ASD closure

SKG Radiology

SKG Radiology has the largest network of radiology locations in Western Australia, including community locations and major hospital sites. It operates from 22 locations and employs over 400 people including doctors, technical and clerical staff.

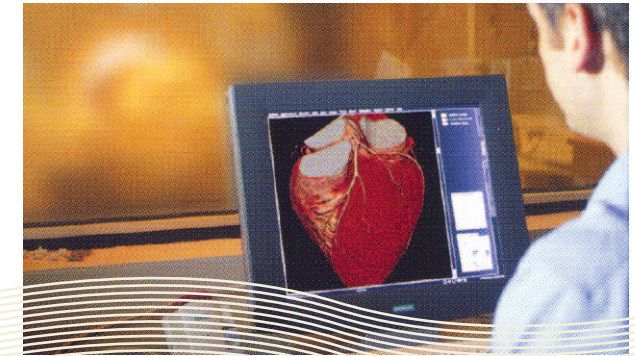
SKG's team of professional radiologists offers a comprehensive range of skills and expertise and includes specialists in all the major sub-disciplines of radiology. This ensures that SKG provides the highest standards of clinical service and diagnostic accuracy to its referring doctors.

SKG is committed to maintaining a high level of patient service and clinical quality at all of its locations. Its qualified technical and support staff work as a team to provide patients with the best care. SKG prides itself on delivering a timely and effective service to respond to the needs of our referring doctors.

As a leader in diagnostic imaging, SKG uses a range of state of the art equipment and advanced technology to produce the best images and deliver precise outcomes to our referring doctors and patients.

SKG Radiology provides a comprehensive range of imaging services including General X-ray, Dental Imaging, Ultrasound, Mammography, Bone Densitometry, Fluoroscopy, Interventional, Multislice CT, Nuclear Medicine, PET and Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

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PET Imaging Services

What is PET?

Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is the latest technology for detecting certain disorders and conditions of the heart, brain and certain cancers.

PET is a type of diagnostic imaging that shows information about the body's chemistry and tissue function at the molecular level, instead of just the internal anatomy. As most cancer cells show increased metabolic activity, the extent and activity of abnormalities is therefore detected earlier using PET imaging than other imaging modalities, such as CT and MRI.

The PET scan will assist the referring physician in initial diagnosis and accurate staging of tumours and is particularly important for monitoring disease progression and determining appropriate treatment.

What does a PET scan involve?

PET studies use very small amounts of radioactive material, or tracer (F-18 FDG), which get taken up into the cell, enabling accurate diagnosis of the distribution of abnormal or active cancer cells in the patient.

The patient is injected in the vein with a small amount of positron-emitting isotope similar to glucose. The patient rests for an hour and is then positioned onto the scanner. The actual scan takes around 45 minutes.

The PET scanner detects the radiation emitted by these isotopes and reconstructs cross-section images of the body similar to a CT scan. A PET trained Nuclear Medicine Radiologist then interprets these images.

PET is a safe procedure, with no side effects. It does involve a low dose of radiation, but this breaks down quickly following the procedure.

When is PET used?

PET is extremely useful in detecting many cancers, including lung, colon, head and neck, lymphoma, gynaecological cancer, stomach, brain tumours and melanoma amongst others. It is useful in initial staging, detecting recurrence and in assessing response to treatment.

PET imaging of the heart identifies viable heart muscle in patients with coronary artery disease and previous heart attacks.

PET imaging of the brain can also help identify epileptic foci and diagnosis of dementia.