

# Better treatment and faster recovery in the picture

Advances in medical imaging mean many conditions can be treated in much less invasive ways and recovery is faster.

The emerging field of interventional radiology uses minimally invasive treatment to deliver maximum results.

"Depending on what's required, we use very-high-level technologies to block, unblock, glue, fix, drain, cement, inject and biopsy parts of the body which were previously inaccessible," says Dr Glen Schlaphoff, director of Interventional Radiology at Liverpool Hospital and interventional radiologist at Spectrum Medical Imaging, which has clinics across Sydney.

The implications for treatment and recovery are immense. Patients can go home much earlier than with conventional treatments, have fewer wounds, fewer scars and recover more quickly.

For example, many Australian women suffer from uterine fibroids. The traditional gynaecological approach meant a woman with a large fibroid would have major surgery, followed by up to six weeks off work as her wounds healed.

"She may even have needed a complete hysterectomy," Dr Schlaphoff says.

"Despite pain, discomfort and heavy periods, she might have hesitated to have surgery because of the risks, time to recover and scars on the abdomen. Today, that same patient can be seen at a clinic, then booked in for the procedure a week later."



Such a patient is given a mild anaesthetic, then a small catheter is inserted into a femoral artery through a small puncture in the groin.

A catheter is guided to the left and right uterine arteries, and a micro-catheter then targets the blood supply to the fibroid.

Small particles are accurately injected to obstruct this blood supply.

The fibroid, having lost its blood supply, will shrink over the next few weeks.

"Because she's only had one tiny incision and a mild anaesthetic, she would be

discharged the next day and need usually only take a week off to recuperate at home," Dr Schlaphoff says.

Thanks to interventional radiology, this outcome has been achieved with minimal surgical impact.

"The beauty of interventional radiology is that it supports many specialist fields," Dr Schlaphoff says.

"Currently we perform more than 250 different procedures and this number is growing.

"So one day we might support a

Technology allows for minimally invasive treatment: "The beauty of interventional radiology is that it supports many specialist fields," says Dr Glen Schlaphoff.

gynaecological team and the next we could be working with an emergency team.

"For example, tonight, a patient may present with a severe deep vein thrombosis with the risk of a clot travelling to the lungs.

"Interventional radiologists would be called to place a filter in the abdomen to prevent the clot going to the lungs and at the same time extract the clot from the vein."

The technique allows the patient to return to normal activities within days, rather than languish for weeks in hospital, he says.

Interventional radiology has helped create similar advances in the treatment of benign enlargement of the prostate.

"Many men may be suitable for a new, effective treatment called prostate artery embolisation (PAE)," Dr Schlaphoff says.

"In this procedure, small particles are injected to block blood supply to the abnormally enlarging prostate gland.

"Patients can return to work in the next few days, with preserved sexual function and markedly improved urinary symptoms."

Dr Schlaphoff describes interventional radiology as "an incredibly exciting area of medicine".

"We can make such a difference to people's lives because of this emerging speciality in medicine, which embraces and adopts the latest in technology."

## Spectrum INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

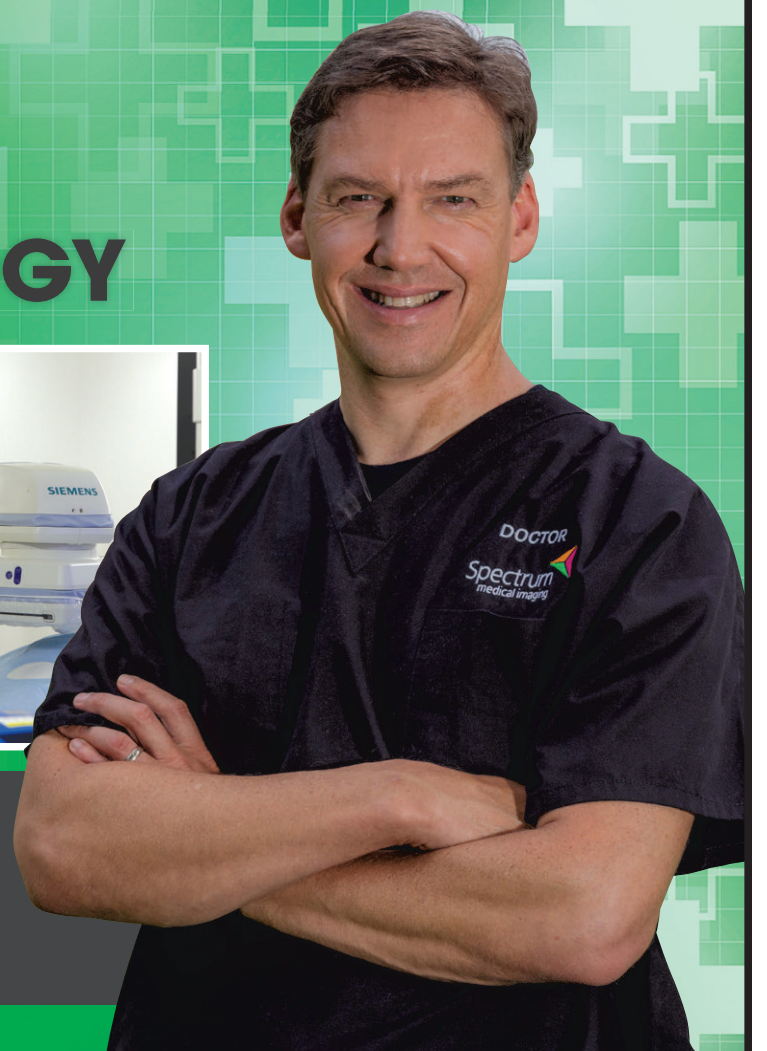
The caring and experienced interventional radiologists at Spectrum Interventional Radiology treat patients with the most advanced minimally invasive procedures available in Australia today. The image-guided techniques used in interventional radiology offer modern treatment options for many conditions allowing patients to be treated safely with less pain and faster recovery.

### Conditions treated include:

- Chronic pain and inflammation with spine, joint and tendon injections
- Osteoporotic spinal fractures treated with vertebroplasty
- Minimally invasive cancer treatments including liver and kidney cancer and bone metastases - eg SIRTEX, DC Beads, Microwave, Cryotherapy
- Men's health treatments including prostate artery embolisation for benign prostate enlargement and varicocele occlusion
- Women's health treatments including uterine fibroid embolisation and treatment of pelvic venous congestion
- Vein and DVT treatments
- Arterial treatments - aneurysms, arterial blockages and haemorrhage control
- Vascular Access such as ports, lines and long term dialysis devices



If you believe that you may benefit from an interventional procedure, speak to your healthcare professional for a referral to see a Spectrum Interventional Radiologist.



### Spectrum Interventional Radiology Contact Details

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### Spectrum Interventional Radiology Locations

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