

NHMRC CLINICAL TRIALS CENTRE RESEARCH SEMINAR

A systematic review and assessment of the evidence for the clinical effectiveness of FDG-PET in staging colorectal cancer and melanoma

Suzanne Dyer and Luke Marinovich

When: Friday 6 February 2009
3.30-5.00pm

Where: Medical Foundation Building Auditorium
92-94 Parramatta Road, Camperdown

Map ref:

1. campus map <http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/building.stm?location=01B>
2. local street map <http://www.whereis.com/index.htm?ref=homeMap#session=MjE=>

Abstract: FDG-positron emission tomography (PET) is a minimally invasive and expensive diagnostic test that assesses function and metabolic activity in various organ systems. PET is frequently used in addition to conventional anatomical imaging techniques in the staging of many cancers. Few randomised trials demonstrating the impact on patient outcomes of adding FDG-positron emission tomography (PET) to the staging pathway exist.

The Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) is undertaking assessment of the safety, clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of PET following a period of interim funding and data collection on the use of PET in Australia for a number of indications. The review of evidence for the clinical effectiveness of PET in staging isolated colorectal liver metastases and recurrent melanoma will be presented and discussed. The evidence assessment took an approach of considering "linked-evidence": considering evidence for test accuracy, impact on patient management decisions and the effectiveness of the treatment changes in improving patient outcomes.

The presenters:

Suzanne Dyer (BSc (Hons), PhD, GradCertPH) commenced working at the CTC in the Systematic Reviews and Health Care Assessment team on MSAC evaluations in 2005; managing the team over 2007 and early 2008. Her employment at the CTC followed a post-doctoral position in basic research at the Heart Research Institute and 3 years' experience in health technology assessment at a Health Economics consultancy. During her time at the CTC she has contributed to the development of a research project on Therapeutic Impact studies of diagnostic tests, which is now being conducted by Lukas Staub as a PhD project and has received a NHMRC project grant under Sally Lord.

Luke Marinovich (BA (Hons), MPH) currently manages the MSAC team. He joined the Systematic Reviews and Health Care Assessment group in 2002, having previously worked on the WA Data Linkage Project. Since joining the CTC, he has worked on over a dozen MSAC health technology assessment projects, including several assessments of PET.