

VMP INSIGHT



Dr Maurice Stevens

A NEW VEHICLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HEAD AND NECK CANCER QUEENSLAND PRIVATE HEAD AND NECK CANCER CLINIC

A new vehicle for the management of head and neck cancer has been formed through the auspices of GenesisCare. A group of surgeons from multiple disciplines who are heavily involved in the management of head and neck cancer at the Royal Brisbane Hospital have grouped together with experts in the field of head and neck radiology, medical oncology, radiation oncology and Allied Health to form a consultative group known as the **Queensland Private Head and Neck Cancer Clinic**.

The purpose of this clinic is to provide an alternative to public hospital treatment for patients with head and neck cancer and to offer a service to people who are unfamiliar with the management of all forms of head and neck cancer including not only mucosal malignancy of the upper aerodigestive tract, but also skin cancer in the region and other unusual lumps in the head and neck.

We follow a process of a consultation and assessment which has been well established at the Royal Brisbane Hospital over many years and which had its inception 50 years ago. The public sector is becoming increasingly busy in this particular discipline and there are some patients who prefer to be treated through the private sector although over the years, many privately insured patients have been cared for through the public sector. This initiative is partly to take some load off the public sector although the gold standard is clearly in that health care sector.

Those of us who are involved in this new clinic are very keen for the patients to be assessed in a very thorough

fashion by experts in the field and to be treated by people with similar expertise through medical and radiation oncology. Most of them have dual appointments to public and private hospitals and will apply the same ethical principles to the management of these patients as exist in the public sector.

One of our thoughts during the formation of this new clinic was that we can provide telephone access for remote general practitioners and specialists in rural and regional areas which will help expedite the assessment process and hence, the treatment of the patients. The clinic will be, for the most part, a virtual clinic held on a Tuesday afternoon and we will want the patients to be worked up thoroughly before they are presented to the clinic for final decision making regarding treatment.

We are hoping that our medical colleagues in all parts of the state and Northern New South Wales will avail themselves of this service to the ultimate benefit of the patients and treating medical practitioners alike.



To refer a patient to the “Private Head & Neck Clinic” please forward your referral to one of the surgeons listed.

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