

CEO INSIGHT

Centenary celebrations

Dear Doctor,

As we continue supporting the national COVID response, St Vincent's Hospital is accepting public patients for surgery, at this stage until the end of June.

Featured in this edition of Dear Doctor is a video of Dr Gratian Punch, talking about the hospital's CUSA technology designed for liver resections - a first for the Northern Rivers. This is great news as GPs no longer need to refer such cases to QLD.



2021 is our Centenary Year and the contribution of our GP community has been critical to our success. Later in the year we will be holding a Centenary Medical Dinner for our GP and VMO community and we will be in touch with more details soon. In the meantime please visit our virtual Centenary Hub which tells the story of St Vincent's contribution to our community over the past 100 years. Go to 100years.svh.org.au

As part of our work to upgrade the hospital and our health precinct we recently completed our Site Master Plan which provides a roadmap for future developments across the hospital and our residential aged care services.

We are closely monitoring The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality & Safety report to ensure our aged care services continues with its high standards of care to meet our community's expectations and needs. The recommendations from the Royal Commission have now been released and we await with interest how the government responds in implementing these much needed measures.

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Palliative Care Unit

The nine bed Palliative Care Unit at St Vincent's has a dedicated team of multi-disciplinary staff including specialised palliative care nurses. It provides a unique service in our region.

Essential facts for GPs about the Unit include:

- Private and Public patients can be admitted;
- The Unit provides ongoing symptom management and End of Life Care;
- Admissions can be direct from the community, patients do not need to go to a public ED first;
- After hours and weekend admissions are accepted;
- To arrange admissions GPs, community nurses and community care providers can call the following numbers:
- Hospital Medical Officer on 0419 449 183
- Bed Manager/After Hours Hospital Campus Manager on 6627 9213.

Palliative Care Week is May 23-29 May.

GPs Ask

We are proud to introduce to local GPs our second GPs Ask video featuring Dr Gratian Punch, on liver diseases and the hospital's new CUSA machine.

Visit www.svh.org.au/for-gps/gp-hub/ to watch:



Liver Surgery and CUSA Device

Q&A With Dr Gratian Punch

What do you do if your patient has a liver cyst/mass/lesion on imaging?

Cysts and liver changes/masses are very common on imaging for all patients. If there is any concern then further investigation with a second modality is very important. That is, adding either CT/MRI to US, or MRI to CT and sending for review with local specialist HPB Surgeons.

Is Liver Surgery available locally?

Local HPB Surgeons can assess imaging and arrange specialty investigation to assess the need for, suitability and size of any liver resection. Locally we perform both laparoscopic (keyhole) and open liver surgery from small lesions up to major liver resections (hepatectomy).

What specialised equipment is available for Liver Surgery?

St Vincent's Lismore has a number of specialised devices for basic and advanced liver surgery. St Vincent's Lismore has recently procured The Cavitron Ultrasonic Surgical Aspirator (CUSA) Device with assistance from Integra LifeSciences to provide significant advancement in our capabilities and ultimately the care of our local patients.

What does the CUSA Do?

The CUSA helps divide the liver by using ultrasonic energy to fragment and aspirate liver parenchymal tissue. In surgery there is improved identification and control of critical intra hepatic structures and allows narrower resection margins of normal liver to obtain appropriate oncological resection.

Why is St Vincent's Lismore so excited about the CUSA?

The CUSA is a significant boost to the care of our local community as St Vincent' Lismore is one of the only hospitals between Newcastle and the Gold Coast to offer this device in Liver Surgery. The use of the device does not increase the cost of care to patients.



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