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## Clinical Radiology



### Nature of the work

Imaging is central to diagnosis, patient management and increasingly to aid minimally invasive therapy. Clinical radiologists work closely with many other medical specialties and, through leadership of the multidisciplinary meetings, are integral members of many clinical teams.

### Working in clinical radiology

Just like other doctors, many clinical radiologists have an area or areas of special interest in which they have a high level of expertise, e.g. chest physician – chest radiologist. Clinicians with questions relating to their specialty will tend to seek out the corresponding expert imager. Contemporary radiologists have tended to move away from being imaging modality specific (ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)) to become specialists in organ systems.

### A rapidly expanding field

Over the last 25 years the role of radiologists has expanded with major developments in imaging technology and therapy.

### Diagnostic Imaging

This is an exciting and dynamic field, the range and technological capability of imaging modalities increases almost daily. Radiologists are able to demonstrate the site and nature of pathology to their clinical colleagues allowing more precise diagnosis and better informed management decisions

Imaging includes many modalities including techniques which are not reliant on ionizing radiation such as ultrasound and MRI.

Multislice CT scanners with Multiplanar reformats are indispensable to diagnosis. As the speed and resolution of CT images continues to increase many traditional studies are becoming obsolete.

Positron emission tomography (PET) and molecular imaging have become central to the management of patients with cancer, their role in this and other diseases continues to evolve.

### Interventional Radiology

The therapeutic aspect of radiology is also flourishing and expanding all the time. It could be considered as "pinhole" surgery when compared to "keyhole" surgical techniques. The range of conditions which can be treated by interventional radiology is increasing. Just as diagnostic radiologists may focus on one organ system interventional radiologists often practice either vascular intervention (the diagnosis and treatment of patients with vascular pathologies including haemorrhage, vascular occlusion and aneurysm disease) or non-vascular intervention (including tumour ablation therapies, relief of urinary, biliary and bowel obstruction, management of abscesses and fluid collections),

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