

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

Section of Imaging

The Section of Imaging, of the Manchester Medical Society, held a meeting on **Thursday 17th April 2008** at **6.00 pm** in **Theatre 2 of the Stopford Building, University of Manchester**. The meeting took the form of a mini symposium entitled “Optimisation of CT protocols”.

Dr W J Gunawardena welcomed the members and guests present. This meeting was actually postponed in January 2007 due to inclement weather as neither speaker was able to make the journey from London to Manchester.

The two speakers for the evening were introduced as follows:-

Professor P Dawson

(Professor of Radiology & Clinical Director,
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust)

“CT protocols and contrast enhancement regimens: A rational basis”

In order to understand the design of CT protocols and their relationship to the (usually) essential contrast enhancement administration regimen, it is necessary to understand something of contrast agent pharmacokinetics and to bear in mind some variables and invariables of physiology. This was all discussed and synthesised in a descriptive rather than a rigorous mathematical manner.

Mrs M Lewis

(ImPACT, St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust, London)

“Optimising dose and image quality”

Mrs Lewis discussed how modern multi-slice CT scanners are capable of excellent coverage, at high resolution and in a short time. The equipment offers little resistance to what is demanded of it and therefore radiation doses could spiral out of control.

In recent years manufacturers have focussed their attention on dose reduction features of the equipment, but it is also the responsibility of the user to define the diagnostic requirements of the scan and adapt scan protocols appropriately.

Each speaker was allocated thirty minutes for their lecture and a further thirty minutes was spent jointly with a discussion whereby members and guests were able to pose questions.

The audience were most attentive and showed their appreciation by way of prolonged applause.

As both speakers had to make prompt return journeys and were unable to accept the section’s hospitality of a meal, it did not take place.

The Section gratefully acknowledges the support of GE Healthcare Ltd and Siemens Medical Solutions.