

ENDOCRINE SURGERY SERVICES

Endocrine Surgery encompasses Thyroid Disease including Thyroid Cancer, Multinodular Goitre, Toxic thyroid Disease, and thyroiditis, Primary and Secondary Hyperparathyroidism, Adrenal Disease and Neuroendocrine pancreatic and gastrointestinal tumours, as well as carcinoid and thymic tumours.

Current Service Provision

An endocrine surgical service is established at Liverpool and Bankstown hospitals. Patients are referred by GP's, Endocrinologists, Renal Physicians, Cardiologists, and other Medical Specialists to one specialist Endocrine Surgeon, 6 General Surgeons and one ENT surgeon all of whom do thyroid surgery.

Ultrasound, CT, MRI and especially Nuclear Medicine are utilised in the diagnostic work-up as outpatients. Inpatient stays are typically short; 1-2 days.

Complex cases are performed by the specialist Endocrine Surgeon. Occasional adrenal procedures are performed by urologists. A significant number of thyroid lobectomies and total thyroidectomies for benign disease and early thyroid cancer are performed by the other clinicians in the group.

Most advanced cancers, re-do thyroids and large retrosternal goitres are treated by the Endocrine surgical unit. Nearly all parathyroidectomies are performed by the Endocrine Surgical Unit.

The growth in caseload will rely on the support of General Surgeons with thyroid skills at Bankstown, Campbelltown, and Fairfield. Another Laparoscopic Adrenal Surgeon should be supported at Bankstown to make this service viable.

Research and Teaching

The endocrine surgery unit presents/publishes 3 papers per year and contributes to Australian Endocrine Surgeons. The unit exceeds College requirements for Advanced Surgical Training and is accredited for Provisional Fellowship Training. Trainees from Hong Kong, Sydney and currently Western Australia have sought and completed training leading to Consultant Endocrine Surgical Positions.

CHAPTER 16

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Endocrine surgery be developed as an Area-wide service.
- Bankstown and Liverpool Hospitals be the two centres for major endocrine surgery with the continued development of specialist adrenal, parathyroid and thyroid surgery at both of these hospitals.
- Elective thyroid surgery be performed also at Bowral, Campbelltown and Fairfield Hospitals.
- A second endocrine surgeon be appointed to the Area Service
- Histopathology resources be enhanced to support endocrine surgery.