



Inside View

Spring 2021



ULTRASOUND AND MR LIVER ELASTOGRAPHY: MINIMALLY INVASIVE, FAST AND CONVENIENT — LIVER ELASTOGRAPHY OFFERS PATIENTS A PAIN FREE ALTERNATIVE TO INVASIVE LIVER BIOPSIES.

Often, people with liver fibrosis don't experience any signs or symptoms.

Chronic liver disease, most commonly Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, alcohol abuse and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, eventually results in liver scarring. When this scarring, or fibrosis, becomes severe, the risk of complications of chronic liver disease, including liver cancer, increases dramatically. Inland Imaging's Ultrasound (US) and

Magnetic Resonance Elastography (MRE) studies can help provide the answers you and your physician need to guide your care.

Effective and Painless Alternative to Invasive Liver Biopsies

Liver biopsy is useful in determining the severity of liver fibrosis. However, an invasive biopsy also invites potential medical complications as well as a

variety of other inconveniences including pain, the need for sedation, arranging for transportation and as much as a full day of recovery time.

Liver elastography can provide all the information providers need without the inconvenience and expense of a biopsy in most patients. The patient only needs to undergo a non-invasive ultrasound or MRI exam.

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WE'RE GROWING IN THE TRI-CITIES:

In January of this year, Tri-City Radiology became Inland Imaging Tri-Cities, continuing the tradition of excellence and compassionate patient care that the staff and radiologists at TCR have provided to patients in the region for almost 50 years.

Inland Imaging employs more than 100 radiologists and nearly 700 clinical, business and IT staff at locations in Seattle, Spokane, Tri-Cities and Western Montana in addition to providing professional radiology services to rural hospitals and clinics throughout the Northwest.

Inland Imaging Tri-Cities offers patients and their physicians:

- The highest levels customer service
- The best possible imaging services at prices lower than area hospitals
- 24/7 access to sub-specialized radiologists for interpretation and consultation
- Regional access to our digital network allowing for sharing of images and reports throughout the region

Additionally, 15 Inland Imaging radiologists currently provide professional services at Kadlec Medical Center and other Kadlec

clinics. By bringing this new outpatient-imaging center into the Inland Imaging system, patients and medical providers in the Columbia Basin will have greater access to advanced medical imaging studies and subspecialty radiology interpretations provided by the expanded network of Inland Imaging radiology services.

According to Bob White, Inland's Chief Operations Officer, "The addition of our Kennewick imaging center allows us to better connect clinically and operationally, enhancing our ability to deliver great outpatient care across a larger region. This approach helps us imagine new ways to keep improving our quality, service, and efficiency while offering the lowest cost medical imaging services in the area."

INLAND WELCOMES DR. DUNN TO OUR RADIOLOGIST TEAM



Garry K. Dunn, MD

Dr. Garry Dunn joins Inland Imaging from Tri-City Radiology, Kennewick, WA. He received his Doctor of Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas before completing his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. Dr. Dunn's professional interests include joint and lumbar spine pain intervention along with body and breast imaging.

Outside of work, Dr. Dunn enjoys travel, hunting and fishing, hiking, golfing, skiing and reading and is fluent in German. He is married and has two daughters.

Dr. Dunn will be working at Inland Imaging Tri-Cities in Kennewick, WA.

SPECIALTIES: Body and Breast Imaging

MEDICAL SCHOOL:

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX., 1985-1989

RESIDENCY:

Diagnostic Radiology Residency, Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, TX., 1989-1993

INLAND WELCOMES DR. WELCH TO OUR RADIOLOGIST TEAM



Lon Welch, MD

Dr. Lon Welch joins Inland Imaging from Tri-City Radiology, Kennewick, WA. He completed his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where he served one year as Chief Resident and obtained additional post-residency training in vascular and interventional radiology. Dr. Welch joined Tri-City Radiology in 1999, to be close to his family in Connell.

Dr. Welch served as Medical Director at Prosser Memorial Hospital and Lourdes Medical Center on a rotating basis with the three other partners in his group. He is currently serving as President of the board of directors for Washington Managed Imaging.

Dr. Welch will be working at Inland Imaging Tri-Cities in Kennewick, WA.

SPECIALTIES: Body and Breast Imaging

MEDICAL SCHOOL:

University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Grand Forks, ND., 1995

RESIDENCY:

Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX., 1995-1999

COVID-19 UPDATE:

It's been just over a year since COVID 19 first arrived in Washington State. Since then, we're proud to say that we've performed more than 340,000 medical imaging exams — safely — without a single report of Covid transmission in any of our regional imaging centers.

We're committed to staff and patient health and continue to do all we can to assure that you can visit us for your important imaging study or procedure, safely. From cleaning and disinfecting our imaging centers, to social distancing, limiting numbers in our facilities, masking to reduce risks to our patients and staff, implementing CDC recommended filter systems, and more.

We're ready to see you for your important medical imaging exams and procedures, safely. Appointments are available seven days a week to allow for longer study times and social distancing.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCANNER FOR YOUR MRI EXAM



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is one of the safest, most comfortable imaging techniques available. The sophisticated technology combines the use of a powerful magnetic field, radio waves, and a specialized computer system to produce detailed, multi-dimensional images of inside your body.

One advantage of an MRI scan is its ability to produce exceptionally detailed images of almost any part of the body, including internal organs, muscles, nerves, blood vessels and small soft tissues around the joints or spine that cannot always be seen easily using other imaging methods. Choosing Inland Imaging for your MRI exam offers you choices to help make your scan as comfortable and effective as it can be.

OPEN MRI

Inland's Open MRI Scanner, is specially designed for those who experience claustrophobia or anxiety in small spaces. This machine features a spacious opening with a 270-degree view. Patients are even able to maintain physical contact with a friend or family member during the exam if they choose. The platform can be lowered to wheelchair height, offering easier access for those with limited mobility. This is an excellent option for those who have concerns about initial comfort when scheduling an MRI exam.

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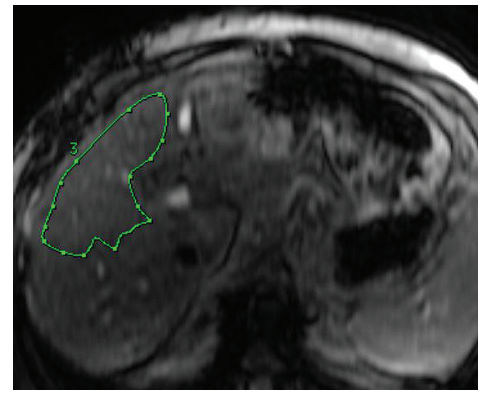
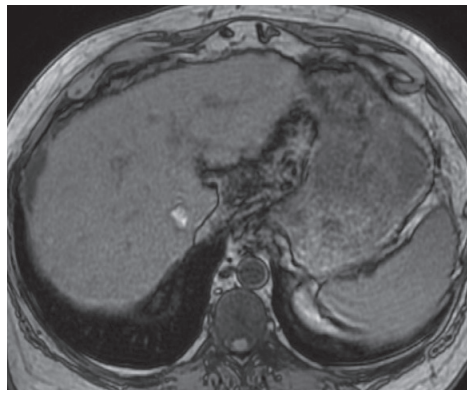
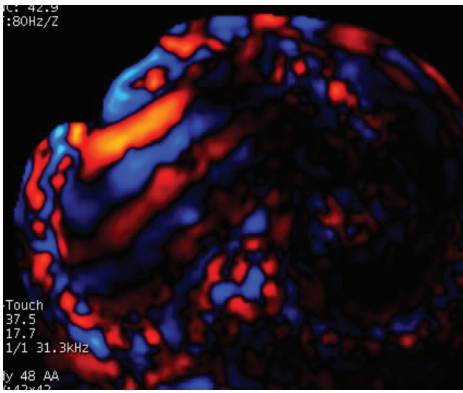


Image left: an MRI image showing the vibrational wave propagating through the liver. Middle: this image shows the liver during a normal MRI Liver study. Third image: the green line shows the region of interest that the technologist draws to measure the stiffness level.



Choosing the Right MRI Scanner continued from page 3

EXTREMITY MRI

In addition to the Open MRI, patients who don't require a whole-body exam can take advantage of an Extremity MRI exam option. The extremity MRI is a specialty scanner for patients needing an exam of the arm (including elbow, wrist, and hand) or the leg (including knee, ankle, and foot). This exam option provides both outstanding image quality and a more relaxed and enjoyable experience for the patient.

3T (TESLA) MRI

The strength of the magnetic field generated by an MRI is measured in units known as Teslas. Named after the brilliant inventor, these units of measure define the quality of the images an MRI can produce. Simply put, the more Teslas, the higher quality the images. The technology of the 3T MRI scanner addresses everything from routine medical exams to clinical research. This model is top of its class.

To find out which of our amazing MRI scanners is the best choice for your exam, ask your physician, or call Inland Imaging at (509) 455.4455.

Liver Elastography continued from page 1

What to Expect During The Exam

ULTRASOUND LIVER ELASTOGRAPHY:

The exam itself is simple and painless. To prepare, patients should not eat or drink for 4 hours prior to their appointment. During the exam, the patient lies comfortably on their back while an ultrasound technologist takes images of the liver, gallbladder, spleen and sometimes more, depending on the ordering provider's request. An additional five to ten minutes of imaging the liver helps obtain the required elastography measurements. After the exam, the patient can leave with no lingering side effects.

MAGNETIC RESONANCE

ELASTOGRAPHY (MRE): The usefulness of ultrasound (US) elastography is limited in larger patients, who have a higher degree of success with MRI vs. US. MRE is done with the same type of scanner and many of the same steps as a traditional MRI exam.

During an MRE procedure:

- The patient reclines, face-up on the examination table.
- A radiology technologist will place a small pad on the patient's abdomen. The pad emits vibrations that pass through the liver.

- The table slides into the MRI scanner. Patients may be given earplugs or headphones before the test to help block the noise of the scanner, which can be loud.
- Once inside the scanner, the pad activates and measurements are recorded onto a computer and turned into a visual map of the liver.
- The scan takes under 30 minutes to complete.

Findings and Follow-up

A radiologist reviews the images and assesses an "F-score," or fibrosis score describing the level of liver scarring present. The Radiologist then generates a report containing the F-score information typically within 24 hours after completion of the exam. Your physician can then use this information to help determine the most appropriate course of care — all while more effectively controlling health care costs.

TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE A CANDIDATE FOR LIVER FIBROSIS ASSESSMENT USING ULTRASOUND OR MR ELASTOGRAPHY, ASK YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER OR CONTACT INLAND IMAGING. **IN SPOKANE CALL (509) 455.4455. IN TRI-CITIES CALL (509) 374.4030.**