

## RSSA Congress Levovist presentations

September 99

Dr Pat Morton, consultant radiologist, City Park Hospital, Cape Town, presented his findings on the use of Levovist for the detection of cancer in the prostate gland. He described his experience with endorectal ultrasound of the prostate and the difficulties in detecting early cancer. He demonstrated his technique for using Levovist to improve the specificity of the examination. As the product enhances the vascularity of solid organs, such as the prostate, focal lesions are more easily detected after its administration. The optimum enhancement is attained with a slow infusion of Levovist over 2 to 3 minutes while scanning. This requires an assistant or an injector pump. Dr Morton believes that the product improves the sensitivity of the examination in difficult cases, however the examination takes longer to perform.

Professor Corr, radiologist from King Edward Hospital, Durban and the University of Natal presented his work on the applications of Levovist for improving the specificity of liver lesions, the detection of portal vein patency and renal artery stenosis. Levovist is useful to improve the sensitivity and specificity of ultrasound examinations of the liver when focal cancer and inflammatory disease is suspected. Levovist can reliably differentiate hypervascular focal lesions such as hepatoma from hypovascular metastases and abscesses. It is very useful in difficult cases where portal vein stenosis or occlusion is suspected, and greatly improves detection of renovascular stenosis in difficult cases with suboptimal visualisation of the renal arteries.

Both presenters felt more local research was required and the cost effectiveness of the use of Levovist must be assessed compared to other investigations such as MR and CT.

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### The Past - Radiography in South Africa before 1899

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