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Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists

Course outline:
Certificate of Skin Imaging

2026

Introduction

The Certificate of Skin Imaging is an on-line self-paced theoretically focused course which provides the opportunity to obtain a qualification at technician level for those wishing to develop or enhance their knowledge and skill in using the various technologies that may be employed to capture effective images of the skin to support medical professionals in their diagnosis and management of skin lesions and disorders.

Some basic information centered on the various methodologies and algorithms employed in the diagnosis of some of the commonly encountered skin lesions/disorders is also covered in the course. This is designed to enhance the student's understanding of how the images developed are used in the diagnosis and treatment processes.

However, completion of this course does not prepare or qualify students to analyse the images for the purposes of diagnosis or treatment.

This course explores:

- the principles and practices associated with a variety of imaging technologies which may be used to support the diagnosis, treatment and ongoing monitoring of skin lesions
- the anatomy and physiology of the skin at an introductory level
- the principles of maintaining health and integrity of the skin
- the application of advanced specialised imaging technologies such as RCM at an introductory level
- relevant infection control measures
- quality management and patient safety considerations.

Techniques/protocols for skin imaging of patients falls into several broad categories each of which may employ one or more imaging technologies/techniques. These include:

- 'Standard' digital photography using DSLR cameras
- 'Specialised' digital imaging using customised DSLR cameras (addition of specialised attachments such as macro lenses, polarisers, microscopy and dermatoscopic interfaces etc)
- Cutaneous Confocal Microscopy (CCM).

The role of the skin imaging technician is to simply gather images using the appropriate technology(ies) as required for other medical professionals to diagnose, treat and manage.

A Melanographer, as opposed to a skin imaging technician, is normally a registered health practitioner such as a registered nurse or a medical practitioner with expertise in the use of the various skin imaging techniques. They are generally involved in surveillance imaging and skin risk assessment together with lesion assessment and triage for further referral.

Graduates of this course cannot represent themselves as Melanographers.

Imaging Protocols

Imaging of patients falls into 4 broad groupings, each of which may involve the local GP, Dermatologist, Melanographer or other health professionals.

General surveillance by local GP

A patient's skin is regularly imaged 'locally' to maintain a watch on normal skin and when considered necessary, lesions which may require ongoing surveillance.

TBP Monitoring

The patient may be referred for TBP only or TBP plus (which includes undiagnosed close-up images), and their doctor will use them in their practice alone.

Full body monitoring

Each section of the body is compared to the matching photograph. The size of lesions is assessed by comparison with the size of those around them, and detection of *change* rather than direct measurement is the aim. At the same time, the *normal skin* of the region can be checked for new lesions.

Combination

For example, a high-risk patient who requires six-monthly reviews may be seen by their doctor once a year and have detailed imaging using an appropriate technology in between.

Target Audience

It is envisaged that the likely participants for the Certificate of Skin Imaging will be those wishing to enhance their existing skills in skin imaging, or those new to the field and have the intention to seek employment within the following domains:

- Technicians who work in a dermatology practice, support research carry out skin imaging.
- Assistants within medical and other dermatologic environments.

Broad Course Aim

The broad aim of this course is to enable the participant to gain or enhance the relevant knowledge and skills necessary to competently and safely conduct dermatologic imaging of patients using a range of appropriate currently used imaging technologies.

Broad Course Learning Outcomes

At the successful completion of this course the participant should be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of basic skin anatomy and the components within the skin structure.
- Relate the value of various technologies currently employed to capture images of the skin for the purposes of diagnosis and ongoing evaluation, management and/or surveillance of commonly encountered skin conditions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of imaging principles and relevant diverse imaging technologies to achieve good quality images of the skin of diagnostic and management purposes.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the relationships between lesion pathology and the clinical and dermoscopic features observed for some commonly encountered skin conditions.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of skin assessment algorithms and other dermatologic tools used by dermatologists and other healthcare practitioners such as dermoscopy and cutaneous confocal microscopy.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of infection control principles and procedures.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of quality management, patient safety and legal considerations in the clinical environment.

Topic	Content/Activities/Interactions	Student effort
<p>3. Fundamentals of Photography - Digital (DSLR) and Analogue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Photography in Medicine b. Conventional vs digital photography c. SLR-DSLR- Manual vs automatic d. DSLR functions e. Factors affecting image quality <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Focus (FL and DoF) ii. Shutter speed iii. Framing iv. Aperture (fstop) v. ISO rating vi. White balance vii. Lighting 	<p>Topic e-learning content</p> <p>Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQs 	<p>3 hours</p> <p>30 minutes</p>
<p>4. Imaging Approaches and Procedural guidelines: For quality imaging using digital cameras and other imaging systems and technologies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Imaging approaches b. Total Body Photography (TBP – Vectra 360) and Sequential Digital Dermoscopy Lesion imaging (SDDI) c. Lesion surveillance 	<p>Topic e-learning content</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>Video tutorials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBP Session • What is 3D TBI • Vectra 3D TBI <p>Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQ quiz 	<p>4 hours</p> <p>30 minutes</p>
<p>5. Recognition and assessment of common skin lesions/presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clinical cutaneous assessment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Melanocytic lesions ii. Non-melanocytic lesions iii. Assessment criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ABCDE iv. Skin lesion assessment tools b. Commonly encountered benign skin lesions c. Commonly encountered melanocytic lesions d. Skin cancers e. Other skin lesions and presentations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Inflammatory conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Psoriasis ▪ Eczema i. Hypertrophic and keloid scars ii. Burns 	<p>Topic e-learning content</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>Video tutorials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dermoscopy for Melanoma • Lesion Morphology <p>Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQ quiz 	<p>4 hours</p> <p>30 minutes</p>

Topic	Content/Activities/Interactions	Student effort
9. Quality management, Patient safety and Legal Requirements a) Legislation and skin imaging b) Safety and security in the clinical environment – equipment, patient, personal and data safety c) Privacy and confidentiality d) Skin imaging and consent e) Data collection, storage, protection and dissemination f) Quality assurance g) The healthcare system	Topic e-learning content Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQ Quiz 	3 hours 30 minutes
Final Assessment	Final Course MCQ Quiz	1 hour
Total suggested study hours (Including online content, additional resources and assessment exercises)		40 hours

Topic Specific Learning Outcomes

TOPIC 1: Introduction to Skin Imaging

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Describe and assess the basic skin anatomy and the components within the skin structure.
- Identify and differentiate the layers of the skin with a focus on the structure of the epidermis/dermis.
- Relate the main cell types and structures within the skin to their principal functions.
- Relate skin appendages to their principal functions.

TOPIC 2: Imaging Technologies

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Identify and compare various technologies currently employed to capture images of the skin for the purposes of diagnosis and ongoing evaluation, management and/or surveillance of commonly encountered skin conditions.
- Evaluate technical aspects of current and emerging skin imaging technologies/imaging systems
- Apply understanding of the basic set-up of imaging systems
- Compare and assess which technologies/imaging systems are appropriate for various scenarios/lesions.
- Distinguish difference between AI, MI and ML.

TOPIC: 3 Fundamentals of Photography

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Identify and compare various technologies currently employed to capture images of the skin for the purposes of diagnosis and ongoing evaluation, management and/or surveillance of commonly encountered skin conditions.
- Compare, contrast and appraise the differences and idiosyncrasies of digital and film based (analogue) skin imaging systems in producing quality images.
- Identify and distinguish the function of the basic controls of a digital camera.
- Examine the interrelationships between the various camera controls and the clinical environment to obtain useful quality images of the body and skin under varying conditions.
- Relate specialised image acquisition attachments such as macro lenses, dermatoscopic and microscope convertors, lighting systems and their appropriate applications.

Topic 4: Imaging Approaches and Procedural Guidelines

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Apply imaging principles and relevant diverse imaging technologies to achieve good quality images of the skin of diagnostic/management purposes.
- Explain the role of the skin imaging technician.
- Apply understanding of the methodologies and general guidelines for skin imaging sessions and lesion surveillance.
- Identify Macro and Micro approaches to imaging of skin lesions.
- Outline and apply procedural guidelines and considerations for conducting an accurate skin cancer assessment session.

Topic 5: Recognition and Assessment of Common Skin Lesions

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Identify the relationships between lesion pathology and the clinical and dermoscopic features observed for some commonly encountered skin conditions.
- Examine the value of dermoscopy and other skin assessment tools in the early detection of malignant and non-malignant skin lesions
- Utilise appropriate terminology relevant to the analysis/description of skin imaging and lesion recognition
- Evaluate assessment criteria to selection of naevi and skin lesions that require imaging for assessment by a specialist dermatologist.
- Assess the value of the range of skin lesion assessment tools currently available.
- Differentiate, using characteristic features between normal skin and common benign skin lesions.
- Differentiate using characteristics features between pre-malign

Topic 6: Introduction to Dermoscopy

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Apply skin assessment algorithms and other dermatologic tools used by dermatologists and other healthcare practitioners such as dermoscopy and cutaneous confocal microscopy.
- Define what dermoscopy is and how it works
- Identify the role and value of dermoscopy in the early detection of malignant and non-malignant skin lesions
- Identify how a dermatoscope can be used to obtain useful diagnostic images of skin lesions
- Apply at a basic level, observed dermoscopic features such as colour, patterns and structures to differentiate between malignant and non-malignant lesions
- Apply at a basic level basic the 2-step algorithm to differentiate skin lesions
- Identify other algorithms utilised in skin lesion diagnosis

Topic 7: Introduction to CCM

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Apply skin assessment algorithms and other dermatologic tools used by dermatologists and other healthcare practitioners such as dermoscopy and cutaneous confocal microscopy.
- Define basic principles behind the operation of CCM.
- Identify the uses, benefits, and application (indications and limitations) of CCM in dermatological diagnosis.
- Outline and compare various machines/systems/tools used to obtain quality images.
- Prepare to set-up a CCM machine at a basic level under supervision.

Topic 8: Infection Control

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Apply infection control principles and procedures.
- Identify the importance of maintaining patient safety in the clinical environment.
- Implement mechanisms for infection control
- Outline considerations associated with wound management including broken skin, open and chronic wounds, pre- and post-operative wound care

Topic 9: Quality Management, Patient Safety and Legal Requirements

After successfully completing this module, participants will be able to:

- Review quality management, patient safety and legal considerations in the clinical environment.
- Maintain the safety and security of the clinical environment including the equipment used for skin imaging.
- Implement measures appropriate to maintaining safety for patients and personnel in the clinical environment.
- Apply key considerations regarding the legal/legislative implications for skin imaging practice.
- Distinguish issues associated with privacy, confidentiality and obtaining patient consent to daily practice.
- Distinguish current Medicare inclusions for skin cancer surveillance imaging and list sources of information on Medicare.

Assessment of Course Outcomes

Each module requires the successful completion of one or more targeted assessment items which may include where appropriate:

- MCQ quizzes
- End of Course MCQ

(Refer to the course outline table above for details)

Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

Be sure to provide a list of references whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research to inform your own work. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Please read the '[ACD Academic Misconduct policy.](#)' This policy is available on the ACD Website.

Readings and resources

Reading and Resources for examinable material will be provided within the course content. Some extended readings and resources need to be independently sourced.

Administrative matters

Please see our Terms and Conditions [here](#).

For further information or questions about the course, please contact enquiries@dermatologyaustralasia.com.au.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists complies with the requirements of the Federal Privacy Act and the National Privacy Principles. A full copy of the College's privacy policy is available [here](#).

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