

Heart Centre for Children



Radio Frequency Puncture System

This System costs US\$26,367

Overview:

There are several congenital heart conditions in which it is possible to perform a minimally invasive procedure in the cardiac catheter laboratory, to open up obstructions within the heart, thus avoiding the need for open heart and vascular surgery. The most common condition where this technique is utilised is in pulmonary valvular atresia. Other conditions include a restrictive atrial septum and disconnected blood vessels.

Current Equipment:

Currently there are no congenital cardiac units within Australia that have this equipment. Most large cardiac centres in North America and Europe would have radiofrequency perforation kits available to them. On occasions, this equipment would also be used on selected patients by the interventional radiology team at the Children's Hospital Westmead.

Obtaining this important equipment would ensure:

That we have the ability to offer a small group of patients the opportunity to have a minimally invasive procedure instead of undergoing open heart surgery.

Patients benefiting from purchasing this equipment:

Patients that need to have obstructions opened up within the heart that would usually have to undergo open heart surgery. These conditions include pulmonary valvular atresia but also include other conditions that require the establishment of a large patent passage way between two receiving chambers of the heart and procedures where arteries such as the pulmonary arteries become disconnected.