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## Up up and away

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital is leading the country when it comes to the highly specialised Double Balloon Enteroscopy (DBE) surgery.

The Hospital is now considered a centre of excellence in DBE, through the work of Dr Alrubaie and Dr Chris Meredith.

Dr Alrubaie said the unit performs up to 24 DBE procedures each month, more than any other centre in Australia.

“DBE is a highly specialised procedure to explore the small bowel, which is five to six metres in length, and to treat any of its pathologies.”

“We can diagnose and treat most problems of the small bowel with DBE. Even patients who require surgical treatment can benefit from the procedure, which can make their surgery easier and safer,” he said.

DBE was pioneered at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital in 2005, when the procedure was trialled to be included on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

Dr Alrubaie said the procedure was first introduced in order to expand the spectrum of management of small bowel conditions.

“The procedure has revolutionised endoscopy. Before its introduction, we were not able to investigate or treat any small bowel issues, except through traditional imaging methods like CT or MRI scans, or surgery.

“Bankstown is one of only two centres in NSW which specialise in this procedure, and receives referrals from Canberra, Newcastle, Wollongong, Orange, Bathurst and many metropolitan hospitals.

“The community is fortunate to have this highly specialised and sought after procedure available so close to home,” he said.

Dr Alrubaie is also an expert in Capsule Endoscopy, a procedure which uses a unique wireless video camera to diagnose small bowel diseases.