



The Need for Quantitative Imaging in Radiation Oncology Treatment Guidance and Assessment

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Disclosure

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PA CURE

Objectives

- ☐ A summary of a myriad of imaging markers
- ☐ Discussions on the various challenges.
- ☐ Examples of quantitative imaging in clinical trials
- ☐ IROC As Quantitative Imaging Resource

Quantitative Imaging (QI)

Definition

- Extraction of quantifiable radiological biomarkers

Applications

- Diagnosis, staging
- Treatment response assessment
- Improve prognostication of response to RT
- "Dose painting"
- Adaptive treatments based on anatomic or functional responses

PRESS R N, BRU H K G, SHIN H, MOUNTS J M, KURLAND B F, WAHL S L, ... SUATTS J M (2018). THE USE OF QUANTITATIVE IMAGING IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY: A QUANTITATIVE IMAGING NETWORK (QIN) PERSPECTIVE. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY • PHYSICS. ELSEVIER INC. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2018.06.021>

TABLE 1. Clinical Indications for Which Imaging can be Performed in a Clinical Trial Setting

Role	Definition	Examples
Diagnosis and staging	To determine whether a lesion is positive or negative for malignancy	F18-FDG PET in lymphoma Nodal staging using F18-FDG PET in head and neck cancers (ACRIN 6688)
Prognostic marker	To determine the expected outcome under standard therapy for the patient's disease stage	Lesion size on anatomic imaging such as CT or MRI "High" versus "Low" SUV on F18-FDG PET in head and neck SCC, NSCLC, and gastroesophageal cancers
Predictive biomarker assay	To differentiate between patients expected to benefit clinically on one treatment relative to another from those not expected to experience such a benefit	I-123 scan predictive for I-131 therapy in thyroid cancer F18-FES PET predictive for hormonal therapy in breast cancer (EA1142)
Pharmacokinetics marker	To confirm that the drug has reached the intended target	F18-FLT PET "flare" in pancreatic cancer (EA2131)
Pharmacodynamic marker	To measure the effects of the drug on the body	Perfusion CT and DCE/DSC MRI in anti-angiogenesis targeted therapy
Early response indicator	To determine the expected ultimate outcome on a particular therapy regimen from changes in a tumor characteristic following a few cycles of treatment	F18-FDG PET response in gastric cancer after neoadjuvant chemotherapy (A021303) During-treatment F18-FDG PET evaluation of external beam radiation in NSCLC (RTOG 1106)
Basis of a Phase II trial end point	A pre- to posttreatment change measurement used to determine whether to proceed to the subsequent Phase III investigation	Complete metabolic response according to F18-FDG PET in cervical cancer
Basis of a Phase III trial end point	A pre- to posttreatment change that serves as a surrogate for a definitive clinical end point	PFS based on anatomic imaging

CT, computed tomography; DCE, dynamic contrast-enhanced; DSC, dynamic susceptibility contrast; FDG, fluorodeoxyglucose; FES, fluoroestradiol; FLT, fluorothymidine; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; NSCLC, nonsmall cell lung cancer; PET, positron emission tomography; PFS, progression-free survival; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; SUV, standardized uptake value.

YIN F, JI, HUANG E P, AND SHANKAR A K (2017). BEYOND CORRELATIONS, SENSITIVITIES, AND SPECIFICITIES: CASE EXAMPLES OF THE EVALUATION OF ADVANCED IMAGING IN ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS AND CANCER TREATMENT. ACADEMIC RADIOLOGY, 24(8), PP. 1037-1035. DOI: 10.1016/j.acra.2016.11.024

Quantitative Imaging Modalities

Anatomic-based imaging

Tomography (CT)

T1- and T2-weighted (MRI)

Functional-based imaging

Positron emission tomography (PET)

Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT)

Perfusion and Diffusion weighted imaging (DSC, DCE, DWI)

Magnetic resonance spectroscopy imaging (MRSI)

Imaging Time Sequence



JERAI R, BRADSHAW T, SIMON U. MOLECULAR IMAGING TO PLAN RADIOTHERAPY AND EVALUATE ITS EFFICACY. J NUCL MED [INTERNET]. 2015;56(11):203-25. AVAILABLE FROM: [HTTP://JNM.SNMJOURNALS.ORG/CGI/DOI/10.2967/JNUMED.114.246348](http://jnm.snmjournals.org/cgi/doi/10.2967/jnumed.114.246348)

CT

3D CT: Anatomical

4D-CTs: Visualize respiratory motion; Ventilation guided avoidance

Dual-energy CT (DECT): Accurate photon and proton dose calculation

CT (DCE-CT): Target delineation; Assess response to therapies; Predict outcomes after RT

CT-based radiomics: Diagnostic accuracy, prognostic capability, and response prediction

Challenges

CT Radiomics:

Reproducibility of using test-retest analyses

Robustness of image features

PET Tracers

FDA approved:

[18F]-fluorodeoxyglucose ([18F]-FDG)
 Na[18F], 18Ffluciclovine
 [11C]-Choline
 [68Ga]-DOTATATE

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FDG PET

Target delineation: HN, lung, lymphoma, pancreatic, anal, rectal

Predictive of RT response

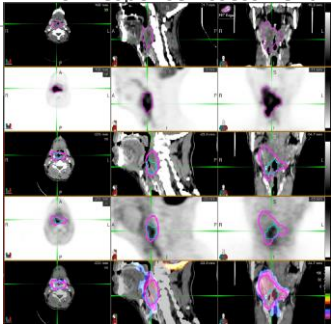
Response assessment

Adaptive RT

Need for standardization to reduce variability

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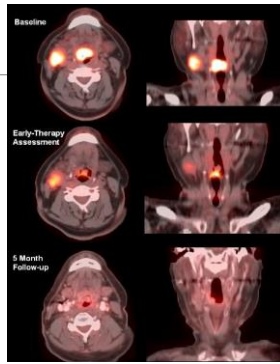
FDG-PET for Response Assessment



PREIS, R. H., SHI, H., K. G., SHIM, H., MOUNTZ, J. M., KIRLAND, R. J., WAHL, R. L., BUATTI, J. M. (2018). THE USE OF QUANTITATIVE IMAGING IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY: A QUANTITATIVE IMAGING NETWORK (QIN) REPORT. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY * PHYSICS. ELSEVIER INC. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2018.06.023>

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Early Response Predicts Long Term Outcome



PREISLE H, SHIL H, K G, SHIM H, MOUNTS J M, KURLAND B F, WAHL B L, ... SHAWT J M (2018). THE USE OF QUANTITATIVE IMAGING IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY: A QUANTITATIVE IMAGING NETWORK (QIN) PERSPECTIVE. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY. DOI:10.1016/j.ijro.2018.05.011

NCCN Recommendations on Use of ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT for Target Definition and Treatment Response Evaluation in Radiotherapy

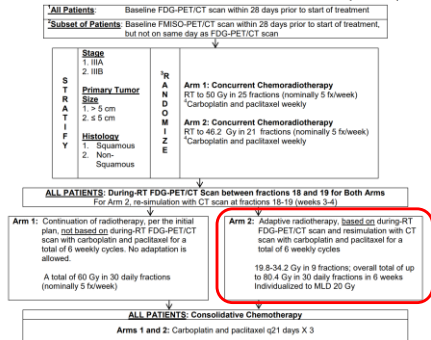
Cancer type	Target definition	Response evaluation
Cervical	Recommended	Optional
Esophageal	Recommended	Recommended
Head and neck	—	Optional
Hodgkin lymphoma	Optional	Recommended
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	Optional	Recommended
Non-small cell lung	Recommended	—
Small cell lung	Recommended	—
Pancreatic	Recommended	—

Recommendations are as of 2015. No significant evidence to support use of ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT at this point is indicated with a dash, which does not mean that use of ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT may not be beneficial but merely that evidence at this point is still insufficient.

BRADY P, BRODSKIY T, SMITH U. MOLECULAR IMAGING TO PLAN RADIOTHERAPY AND EVALUATE ITS EFFICACY. J NUCL MED (INTERNET). 2015;56(11):1752-65. AVAILABLE FROM: HTTP://ANM.SNMJOURNAL.ORG/DOI/10.2967/JNUMED.114.143424

RTOG 1106/ACRIN 6697

RANDOMIZED PHASE II TRIAL OF INDIVIDUALIZED ADAPTIVE RADIOTHERAPY USING DURING-TREATMENT FDG-PET/CT AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN LOCALLY ADVANCED NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER (NSCLC)



Question set 3:

Which of the following is the primary objective for RTOG 1106-6697: To determine when an individualized adaptive radiation treatment (RT) plan is applied by the use of an FDG-PET/CT scan acquired during the course of fractionated RT in patients with inoperable or unresectable stage III NSCLC

- a) whether tumor dose can be escalated to improve the LRPF rate at 2 years;
- b) whether an individualized dose escalation improves overall survival (OS)
- c) whether an individualized dose escalation improves progression-free survival (PFS)
- d) whether the rate of severe (grade 3+ CTCAE, v. 4) radiation-induced lung toxicity (RILT) differs

Answer: a)

Literature:

Reference: <https://www.rtog.org/ClinicalTrials/ProtocolTable/StudyDetails.aspx?study=1106>

PET with Other Tracers

FLT: Early response, differentiate progression

Hypoxia PET: [18F]- fluoromisonidazole (FMISO)

[18F]-fluoroozomycin arabinoside (FAZA)

[18F]-flortanidazole (HX4)

Cu-ATSM

Adaptive; Dose painting;

Standardization

Uncertainties for PET/CT QA

Uncertainties and Quality Control Measures for PET/CT in Radiation Therapy Planning			
Category	Process	Uncertainty	Quality control
Scanning protocol	Patient preparation	Metabolism levels (18F-FDG)	Level physical activity
		Blood glucose levels (18F-FDG)	Measure fasting blood glucose with acetone urine
	Radionuclide injection	Residual activity in syringe	Measure correct for residual activity
Acquisition	Patient positioning	Delay correction errors	Synchronize scanner clock
		Spacer offset between PET and treatment planning CT	Ensure consistent patient positioning using identical positioning devices
		Quantitative uncertainties from attenuating objects	Avoid placing objects outside image field of view
Scanning	Patient motion		Implement motion management strategies
		Attenuation correction uncertainties from iodine contrast material	Acquire separate low-dose CT scan or dark correction
		Equipment failure or electronic drift	Calibrate detector and equipment frequently
Reconstruction	Reconstruction	Increased SUV because of larger uptake period	Apply strict protocol for uptake period
		Selection of optimal image reconstruction method/parameters	Benchmark algorithms using phantoms (task-specific)
		Random, scatter, attenuation detector sensitivity, and partial-volume effect	Apply appropriate corrections and corrections
Analysis	Segmentation	Differentiation of normal tissue and tumor uptake	Know radiologist's normal baseline
		Segmentation uncertainties	Develop segmentation protocol; benchmark algorithms with phantoms
		Limited spatial resolution and sensitivity	Include margins
Quantification	Quantification accuracy		Calibrate PET scanner to dose calibrator
		Selection of relevant quantitative measures	Compare quantification metrics with known analysis-derived parameters; control hardware
		Quantitative differences between scanners/institutions	Quantitatively compare scanners
Treatment planning	Target definition	Registration errors	Benchmark algorithms using physical or digital phantoms; crop images
	Motion		Use same motion management method as was used during imaging

JERAM, BRADSHAW, S. SIMON, L. UNDERHILL, R. MAGNANT, T. SPAN, M. MOYTHAW, AND EVALUATE ITS EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF PET/CT IMAGES FOR RADIATION THERAPY PLANNING

Variability in Imaging and Sample Size

Frequencies of Specific Issues During Scanner Qualification*

Issue	No. of scanners during:	
	T0 period (85 scanners)	T2 period (44 scanners)
Uniformity problem	7	9
SUV outside specification	14	3
Phantom filling issue	4	3
Reconstruction problem	6	5
Improper acquisition	3	0
Incomplete information	11	2
Problem with forms	5	1
Total	50	14

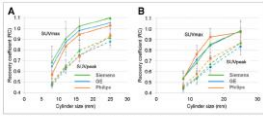


FIGURE 4. Recovery coefficients (defined as ratio of measured SUV to true SUV) as function of cylinder diameter for static scan (A) and dynamic (B) acquisitions.

Differences in Scanner Qualifications for 3 Time Periods

Parameter	T0		T1		T2	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
No. of scanners passing first time	25	38	34	87	35	67
No. of scanners passing eventually	39	60	5	13	13	25
Total no. of scanners passing	64	98	39	100	48	92
Total no. of scanners	65		39		52	

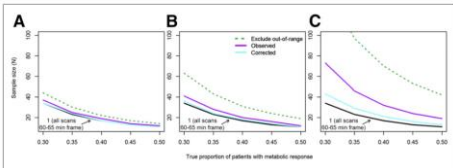
SCHEIDTMAN D, FREDERICKSON D, KIMURA S, KIMURA S, SIEGEL DA, SHIMMEL ET AL. QUANTIFICATION OF NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE-DEVELOPED CANCER CENTER FOR QUANTITATIVE PET/CT IMAGING IN CLINICAL TRIALS. J NUCL MED (INTERNE). 2015;56(7):1085-91. AVAILABLE FROM: [HTTP://WWW.NCBI.NLM.NIH.GOV/PMC/ARTICLES/PMC4511618/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4511618/)

Effects of Injection-to- Acquisition Time Variability on Required Sample Size

Sensitivity and Specificity Derived from Simulated Time-Activity Curves and Uptake Times

Sampling and correction scenario	Excluded	Sensitivity	Specificity
Scenario 1 (all scans 60-65 min)	---	98% (94%-99%)	99% (98%-100%)
Scenario 2	---	92% (90%-95%)	99% (98%-100%)
2 exclude out of range*	20%	94% (92%-95%)	100% (99%-100%)
2 corrected†	---	95% (93%-96%)	99% (98%-100%)
Scenario 3	---	88% (86%-90%)	98% (96%-99%)
3 exclude out of range*	44%	93% (91%-95%)	99% (98%-100%)
3 corrected†	---	95% (93%-96%)	99% (98%-100%)
Scenario 4	---	72% (70%-76%)	91% (89%-92%)
4 exclude out of range*	54%	82% (78%-86%)	98% (95%-99%)
4 corrected†	---	87% (85%-89%)	99% (97%-99%)

*Out of range is defined as uptake time < 50 min or > 70 min, or difference between uptake scans > 15 min.



BARABINO M, PETERSON JM, DODDLE W, HANNOON KA, MANNING ET AL. ANALYZING CLINICAL TRIALS USING PET TO MEASURE EARLY RESPONSE TO DELOCIDE THERAPY: EFFECTS OF INJECTION-TO-ACQUISITION TIME VARIABILITY ON REQUIRED SAMPLE SIZE. J NUCL MED (INTERNE). 2016;57(2):238-46. AVAILABLE FROM: [HTTP://WWW.NCBI.NLM.NIH.GOV/PMC/ARTICLES/PMC4816113/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4816113/)

MR

T1- and T2-weighted

Perfusion, DWI

Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI)

Spectroscopy

Tumor delineation

Prediction of RT response

Planning adaptation

Assessment of treatment response

Perfusion MR

Dynamic contrast enhanced (DCE) MRI

1) Ktrans; 2) Kep 3) Vp and Ve

Dynamic susceptibility contrast (DSC) MRI

Cerebral blood volume (CBV); cerebral blood flow (CBF);

Mean transit time (MTT)

Differentiate tumor progression

Predict for survival outcomes e.g. ACRIN 6677/RTOG 0625; ECOG-ACRIN (NCT03115333)

DCE-MRI Ktrans values for targeting radio-resistance

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DWI MR

Early response in Clinical Trials:

Esophageal cancer (NCT03151642); HNC (NCT02497573, NCT00581906); Prostate cancer (NCT02319239); Rectal cancer (NCT02233374); Pediatric sarcoma (NCT02415816), and Cervical cancer (NCT01992861)

3 T allows for higher b value

QA and standardization of ADC for segmentation and radiomics

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MRS/MRSI

Diagnosis: Tumor grade

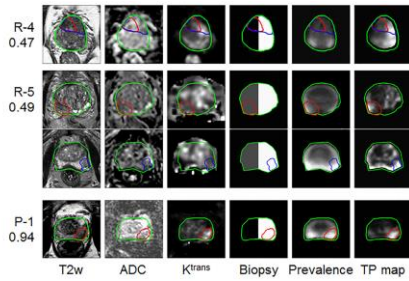
Response assessment: Differentiate tumor progression and radiation necrosis.

Target delineation and dose escalation

Example: Prostate: tumor id for brachy therapy guidance

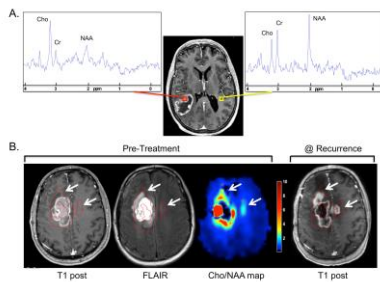
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Multi-parametric MR for Tumor Definition



VAN SCHIE, M. A., DINH, C. V., HEDDE, P. J., VAN, P. J., HEIJMINK, S. W. T. J. P., BERNHARDT, L. G. W., VAN DER HEIDE, H. A. (2018). CONTOURING OF PROSTATE TUMORS ON MULTIPARAMETRIC MRI: EVALUATION OF CLINICAL DELINEATIONS IN A MULTICENTER RADIOTHERAPY TRIAL. *RADIOTHERAPY AND ONCOLOGY*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radonc.2018.04.025>

EPSI for Tumor Delineation



PREIS, R. H., SHU, H. K. G., SHIM, H., MOUNTZ, J. M., KURLAND, B. F., WAHL, B. L., BLATT, J. M. (2018). THE USE OF QUANTITATIVE IMAGING IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY: A QUANTITATIVE IMAGING NETWORK (QIN) PERSPECTIVE. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2018.05.033>

MR for Outcome Prediction

Table 3: Basic MR functional imaging types that have shown promise in predicting outcomes for various tumor types.

Type of measurement	Functional imaging method	Known as	What is measured
Perfusion	Dynamic contrast enhanced	DCE, permeability	Gadolinium-induced shortening of T1
	Dynamic susceptibility contrast	DSC	Gadolinium-induced shortening of T2*
	Arterial spin labeling	ASL	Intrinsic contrast enhancement generated from magnetization of arterial blood
Diffusion	Diffusion weighting imaging	DWI	Gradient-induced sensitization of molecular diffusion
Metabolic function	Spectroscopy	MRSI	Chemical composition based on resonant frequency
Oxygenation	Bold-level oxygen dependent	BOLD, fMRI	T2* differences in oxy- and deoxyhemoglobin

GISELE C. PEREIRA, MELANIE TRAUGHER, AND RAYMOND F. MUDC, JR., "THE ROLE OF IMAGING IN RADIATION THERAPY PLANNING: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE," *BIOMED RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL*, VOL. 2014, ARTICLE ID 231260, 9 PAGES, 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/231260>

MRI Radiomics

Discern benign from malignant lesions
 Identify radiation necrosis after RT
 Generate automatic tumor segmentation algorithms
 Improve prognostic capabilities
 Deep learning to correlate with genomic phenotypes

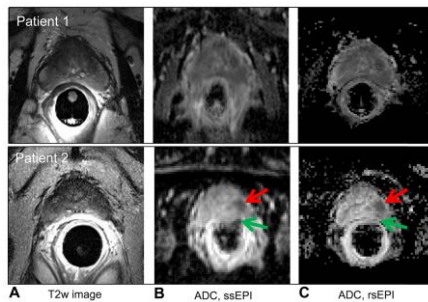
Challenge:

Validate robustness radiomic features

Imaging processing platforms that facilitate the discovery and validation of radiomic biomarkers

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DWI MR Blurring and Distortion



A T2w image **B** ADC, ssEPI **C** ADC, rsEPI

JAFFRAY DA, CHUNG C, COOLENS C, FOLTZ W, KELLER H, MENARD C, et al. QUANTITATIVE IMAGING IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY: AN EMERGING SCIENCE AND CLINICAL SERVICE. *SEMINARS IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY*. 2015 Oct 1 [cited 2018 Apr 10];25(4):292-304. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.semradonc.2015.05.009>

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Question set 1:

Extracting quantitative transport parameters from DCE-MRI acquisitions is challenging. The selection of different perfusion analysis softwares corresponded to within-subject coefficient variation for K_{trans} in the range,

- a) 28.3% - 48.8%
- b) 48.3% - 68.8%
- c) 68.3% - 88.8%
- d) 38.3% - 58.8%

Answer: b)

Literature:

Jaffray DA, Chung C, Coolens C, Foltz W, Keller H, Menard C, et al. Quantitative Imaging in Radiation Oncology: An Emerging Science and Clinical Service. *Semin Radiat Oncol* [Internet]. 2015 Oct 1 [cited 2018 Apr 10];25(4):292-304. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1053429615000557>

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Imaging Variability & Outcome

Table 11. Quantitative quality control definitions for diffusion MRI and EDI analysis.

Parameter	Score = 1 (Unusable)	Score = 2 (Unusable)	Score = 3 (Usable)	Score = 4 (Good)	Score = 5 (Great)
Distortion/artifacts	Severe, affecting tumor	Moderate, affecting tumor	Moderate, not affecting tumor	Mild, not affecting tumor	No distortion or artifacts
ADC values (NAWM)	Negative values	Non-physiological range (0-0.4 $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$)	Lower or higher than normal, but within physiological range (e.g. 0.4-0.8 $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$; 0.3-1.0 $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$)	Within normal range (0.6-0.8 $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$)	
ADC values (CSF)	Negative values	Non-physiological range (0-1.5 $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$; 4.0-6 $\mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$)	Lower or higher than normal, but within physiological range		Within normal range for CSF
Registration of ADC maps with baseline ADC maps	Severe misalignment, tumor not aligned	Moderately misaligned, tumor not aligned	Moderately misaligned, but tumor is aligned	Slightly misaligned, but tumor is largely aligned	Perfectly aligned

123 available, 84 (68%) ≥ 3 , 58 (47%) = 5

DISCUSSION BM, BMJ, WOODBURN, MARQUET, ROEMER, L, 27% 2018 QUALITY CONTROL AND FUNCTIONAL DIFFUSION MAP RESULTS IN ACHIEVING BETTER OUTCOMES: A MULTICENTER RANDOMIZED PHASE I TRIAL OF BEVACIZUMAB AND CHEMOTHERAPY IN RECURRENT GLIOBLASTOMA (PVT1) ONCOLOGIST 15, 2015 338-349

Overall Survival by QC Score

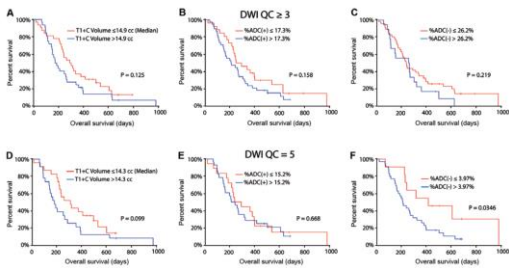
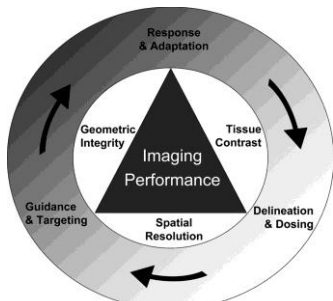


Diagram depicting the importance of optimizing imaging performance based on the fundamental objectives of radiotherapy (outer circle).



Laura A. Dawson, and Cynthia Menard The Oncologist 2010;15:338-349

Question set 2:

Major impediments to broad adoption of molecular imaging include:

- a) Lack of clinical evidence, immature technology, tracer scarcity, and inadequate recommendation.
- b) Lack of clinical evidence, immature technology, lack of reimbursement models, and inadequate recommendation.
- c) Lack of clinical evidence, inadequate training, lack of reimbursement models, and inadequate recommendation.
- d) Lack of clinical evidence, lack of analysis tools, tracer scarcity, and inadequate recommendation.

Answer: c)

Literature:

Jeraj R, Bradshaw T, Simon i U. Molecular Imaging to Plan Radiotherapy and Evaluate Its Efficacy. J Nucl Med [Internet]. 2015;56(11):1752–65. Available from: <http://jnm.snmjournals.org/cgi/doi/10.2967/jnumed.114.141424>

Home > Research > Research Areas > Clinical Trials > NCI's National Clinical Trials Network

NCI National Clinical Trials Network Structure



The NCTN structure includes five U.S. Network groups and the Canadian Collaborating Clinical Trials Network. Membership in the individual NCTN groups is based on criteria that are specific to each group. Sites can belong to more than one group, and membership in at least one group allows a site to participate in the trials led by any NCTN group for which their investigators are qualified. Consequently, researchers from the LAPs, NCIORP, other academic centers, community practices, and international members associated with the Network groups may all enroll patients onto NCTN trials. Clinical trials led by NCTN groups may receive support from the IRCOC Group, ITSA, and tissue banks, according to the scientific needs of the trials.

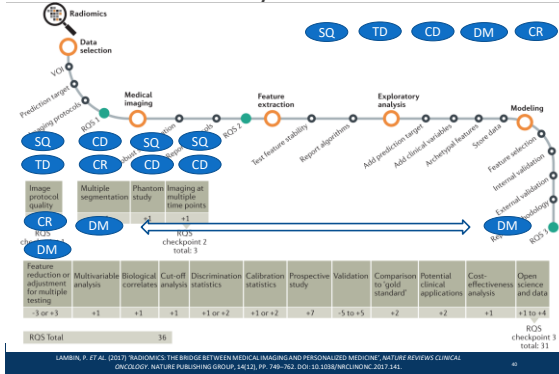


<https://www.cancer.gov/research/real/clinical-trials/nctn>

IROC Mission

Provide **integrated** radiation oncology and diagnostic imaging **quality control programs** in support of the NCI's NCTN Network thereby **assuring high quality data** for clinical trials designed to improve the clinical outcomes for cancer patients worldwide

Radiomics Quality Scores



Summary

- ☐ QI essential for radiation therapy and have been incorporated in clinical trials
- ☐ Many challenges face appropriate usage of QI
- ☐ IROC as an resource for QI



Thank you