Research and Relevance of Brachytherapy Dose Calculation Advancements:

Current status of the benchmark cases with plans for availability to the medical physics community

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F. Ballester PhD University of Valencia, Spain

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Learning objectives

Present

- work in progress of the AAPM-ESTRO-ABG Working Group developing well-defined test cases for commissioning of modelbased dose calculation algorithms (MBDCA) as recommended by TG-186
- plans to enlarge the RPC registry where 3D dose distributions will be available for medical physics comunity for commissioning and QA



Contents

- TG-186 commissioning recomendations
- MBDCA-WG road map
- Generic:
 - HDR Ir-192 source model
 - shielded cylindrical applicator
- DICOM water sphere test cases

• Conclusions

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Report of the Task Group 186 on model-based dose calculation methods in brachytherapy beyond the TG-43 formalism: Current status and recommendations for clinical implementation

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Provides

- Guidance to early MBDCA adopters
- Recommendations



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Key features identified:

- Introduction of MBDCA into clinic places hard tasks to properly commission new features of these algorithms
- At this time, the only "safe" approach possible is for each user to model and compare the same test cases in both the MBDCA TPS and a well-validated MC code
- Exploring MBDCA limitations is an important undertaking among early adopters, and must be expanded to various tumors sites and treatment geometries



Key features identified:

- A method and infrastructure that go beyond the current TG-43 validation are required
- Test cases would be available in DICOM-RT that facilitates comparisons
- Creation of a Registry where validated test case plans would be made available via the web
- What, how, and where these test cases could be accessed?
- This could be accomplished through expansion of the joint AAPM/RPC Brachytherapy Source Registry



Working Group on Model-Based Dose Calculations Algorithms in Brachytherapy



Charges

- Develop a limited number (~ 5) of well-defined test case plans and perform MBDCA dose calculations and comparisons.
- Housing reference plans/data in the Registry.
- Propose well-defined prerequisites for test case plans to be submitted to the Registry.
- Develop a review process for evaluation as new reference data meeting the prerequisites.
- Engage the vendors to promote uniformity of practice

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MBDCA-WG road map

Phase I

To prepare 5 DICOM based test cases using a virtual ¹⁹²Ir source and a virtual applicator in cooperation with the vendors, with the aim to:

- Validate the accuracy of MBDCA dosimetry
- Confirm the feasibility of the TG-186 commissioning flowchart
- Involve the vendors to preserve global uniformity of practice and to render tools necessary for the smooth transition to MBDCA dosimetry available
- Inform/educate the community through publication of results and the availability of the test cases via a RPC/ESTRO/ABG hosted registry

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MBDCA-WG road map

Phase II

- Maintaining the registry, reviewing and uploading submitted test cases and extending it to low energy brachytherapy, aimed to:
 - The gradual compilation of cases for the thorough acceptance testing of MBDCA based treatment planning systems
 - The notification to users for potential limitations of MBDCA based treatment planning systems
 - The accumulation of dosimetry data that could be useful for reviewing brachytherapy practice in the light of the advent of MBDCAs

What should be tested?

Applicators, sources and devices (TG-186 section IV.B.1.e)

- TG-186 recommendations:
 - It is responsability of the user
 - TPS vendors should provide analitical modelling schemes and visualization tools
 - The manufacturers should disclose their geometries and material
 - Prior to accepting a device it must also be verified by an independent investigator



Current clinical scenario

- MBDCA TPS available for <u>HDR Ir-192 only</u>
- Physis effects taken into account for MBDCA-based TPS and its significance in HDR:
 - Scatter default









Current clinical scenario

- MBDCA TPS available for <u>HDR Ir-192 only</u>
- Physis effects taken into account for MBDCA-based TPS and its significance in HDR:
 - Scatter default
 - Shielding









Current clinical scenario

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 - 🖵 Tissular Heterogeneity 🦊





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MBDCA commissioning:

- level 1: MBDCA should fall back to TG-43 data in well controlled conditions (all water)
- level 2: MBDCA should take into account material heterogeneities and scatter conditions



Commissioning Flowchart



Abridged flowchart for MBDCA software UI commissioning (adapted from TG-186) WG goals:

- To design a generic source
- To design a generic shielded cylindrical vaginal applicator
- To confirm the feasibility of the TG-186 commissioning flowchart
- To generate the first plan/data for the registry

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MBDCA HDR ¹⁹²Ir source model



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MBDCA applicator

Shielded vaginal applicator with cylindrical symmetry



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Rationale

- simple
- provide evidence of
 - \checkmark transmission
 - ✓ partial scatter
 - heterogeneity

DICOM tests: source center

DICOM water sphere in air

256 x 256 x 241 cubic voxels





Computational model

- The model has been distributed to vendors
- Its import to vendor treatment Ο planning systems has been checked
- an exercise has been performed to ensure the capability of exporting test RT dose data in the dicom image coordinate system.

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DICOM tests: source center

DICOM water sphere in air



Plan:

○ source at center of water sphere



DICOM tests: source displaced

DICOM water sphere in air



Plan:

 \circ source at center of water sphere

 $\,\circ\,$ source displaced at 12.75 cm



DICOM tests: applicator

DICOM water sphere in air

256 x 256 x 241 cubic voxels

32 cm 34 01 34 cm

Plan:

○ source at center of water sphere

 $\,\circ\,$ source displaced at 12.75 cm

source at the center of the
cylindrical part of the applicator at
the center of the water sphere





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DICOM tests: MBDCA algorithms

General purpose Monte Carlo codes:

- BrachyDose (EGSnrs)
- o Geant4
- MCNP5 v1.6
- o MCNP6 beta2
- Penelope2011

Specific algorithms for BT:

- BRACHYVISION (Acuros)
- Collapse-Cone superposition/convolution method (to be implemented in OncentraBrachy)



MBDCA HDR ¹⁹²Ir source model: TG-43 data

R = 40 cm water sphere $\Lambda = 1.1107 \pm 0.0004$ cGy/(h U)

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MBDCA HDR ¹⁹²Ir source model: TG-43 data

R = 40 cm water sphere

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MBDCA HDR ¹⁹²Ir source model: PSS data

R = 40 cm water sphere

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work in progress

Collapse-Cone

DICOM sphere water tests: source centred CCC vs. MCNP5

CC source centre $z=0 \rightarrow D \times r^2$ (cGy cm² h⁻¹ U⁻¹) ີ ເມື່ອ ໂ 10 1 5 0 -5 -10 -15 15 -15 -10 -5 5 10 x (cm)

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work in progress

BRACHYVISION

DICOM sphere water tests: source displaced

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BrachyVision vs. MCNP5



work in progress

Monte Carlo results

DICOM sphere water tests: applicator

Penelope2008 vs. MCNP5



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Conclusions

Deterministic radiation transport algorithms are being tested for

- HDR Ir-192 source in TG-43 conditions
- HDR Ir-192 source in bounded conditions
- Shielded applicator in water

Good agreement of the TPS based on MBDCAs with Monte Carlo was obtained



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