



Proton Treatment Planning

SAM Educational Session

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Today's objectives

- Discuss the general planning tools used in proton planning
 - Aperture / Compensator based delivery
 - Pencil Beam delivery
- Review the unique handling of CTV / ITV / PTV when treating with protons
- Understanding the benefits of PBS and some additional concerns
- PBS patient specific QA



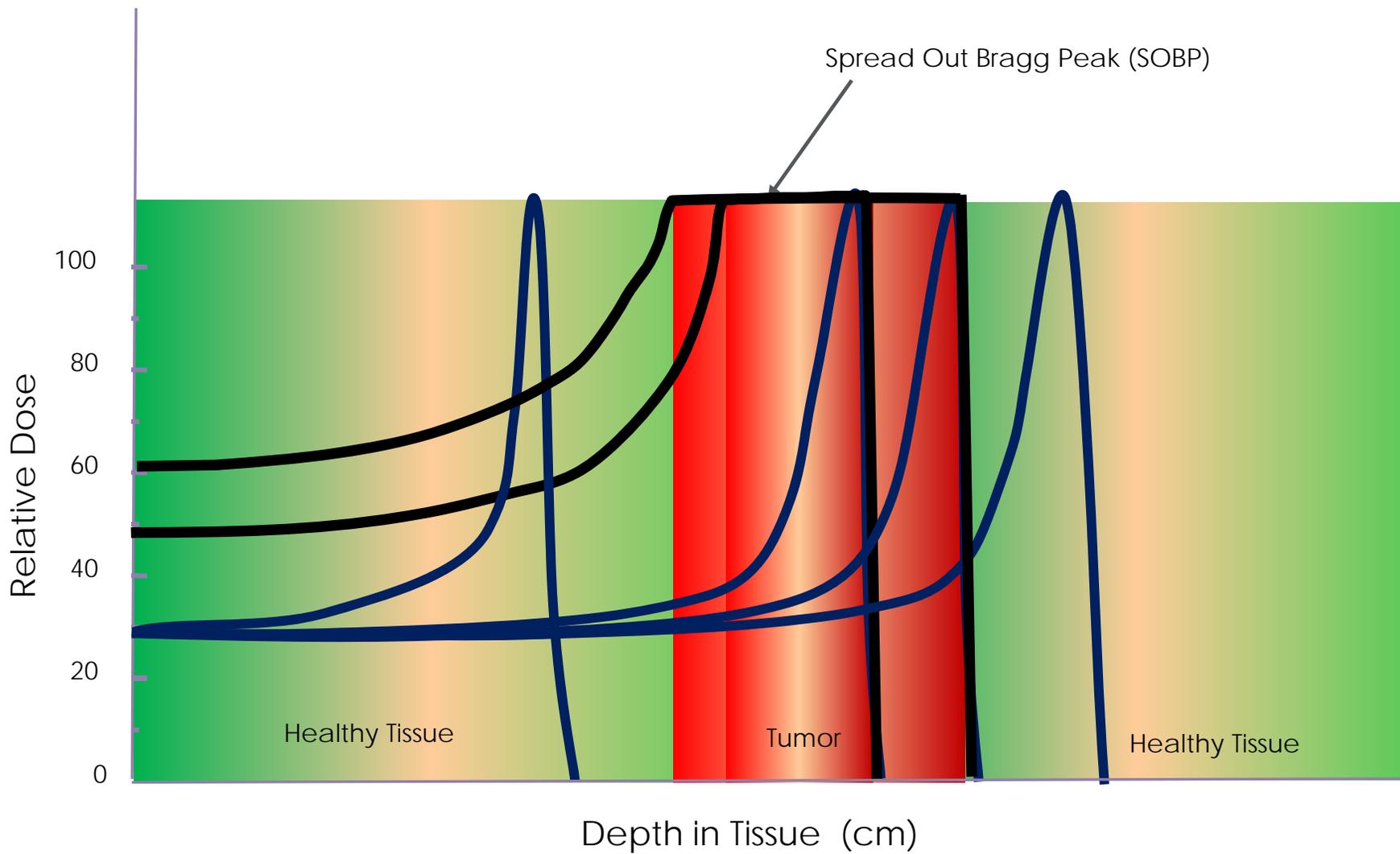
Aperture / Compensator based Planning Strategies

- Cover the target with appropriate margins
- Spare the critical structures
- Plan with fields that deliver the most “robust” plan

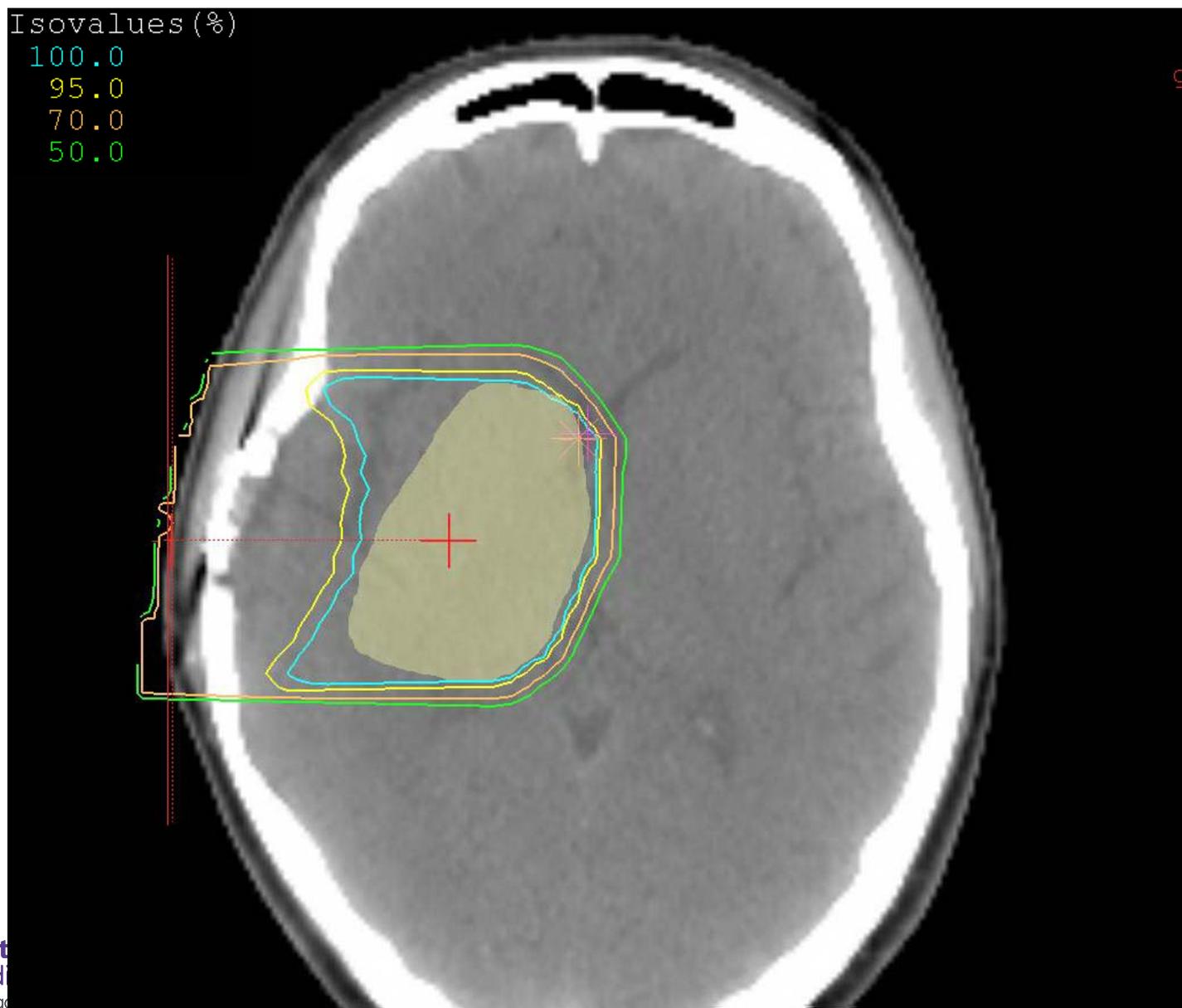
Tools to do our job

- Protons
 - Range : The depth of the Bragg peak (D90%)
 - Modulation : The spread of the Bragg peak
 - Apertures : Shaping the beam perpendicular to the path
 - Compensators : Distal Shaping
 - Patch Fields : Distal Edge to Lateral Edge Matching

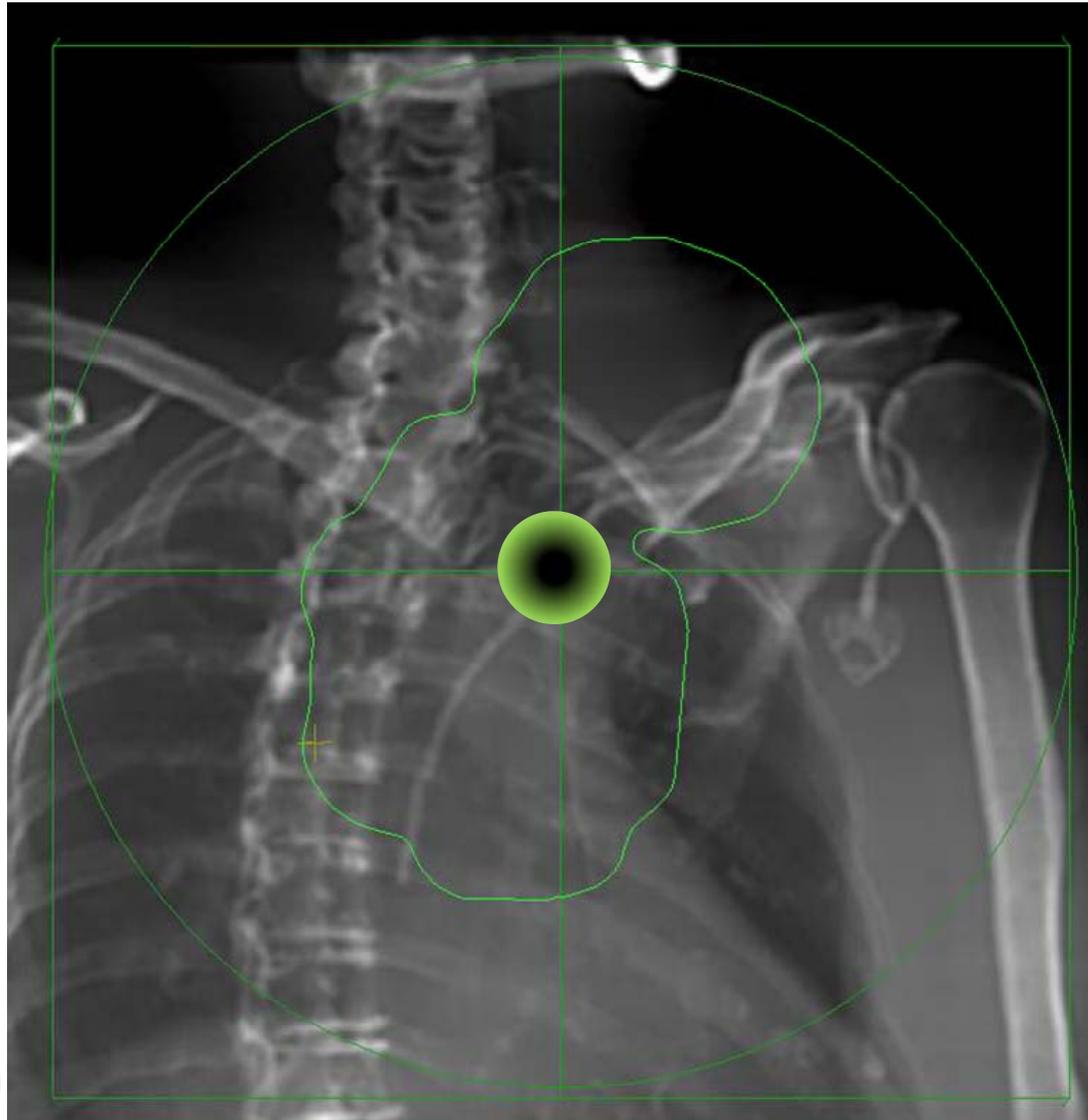
The Physics of Protons



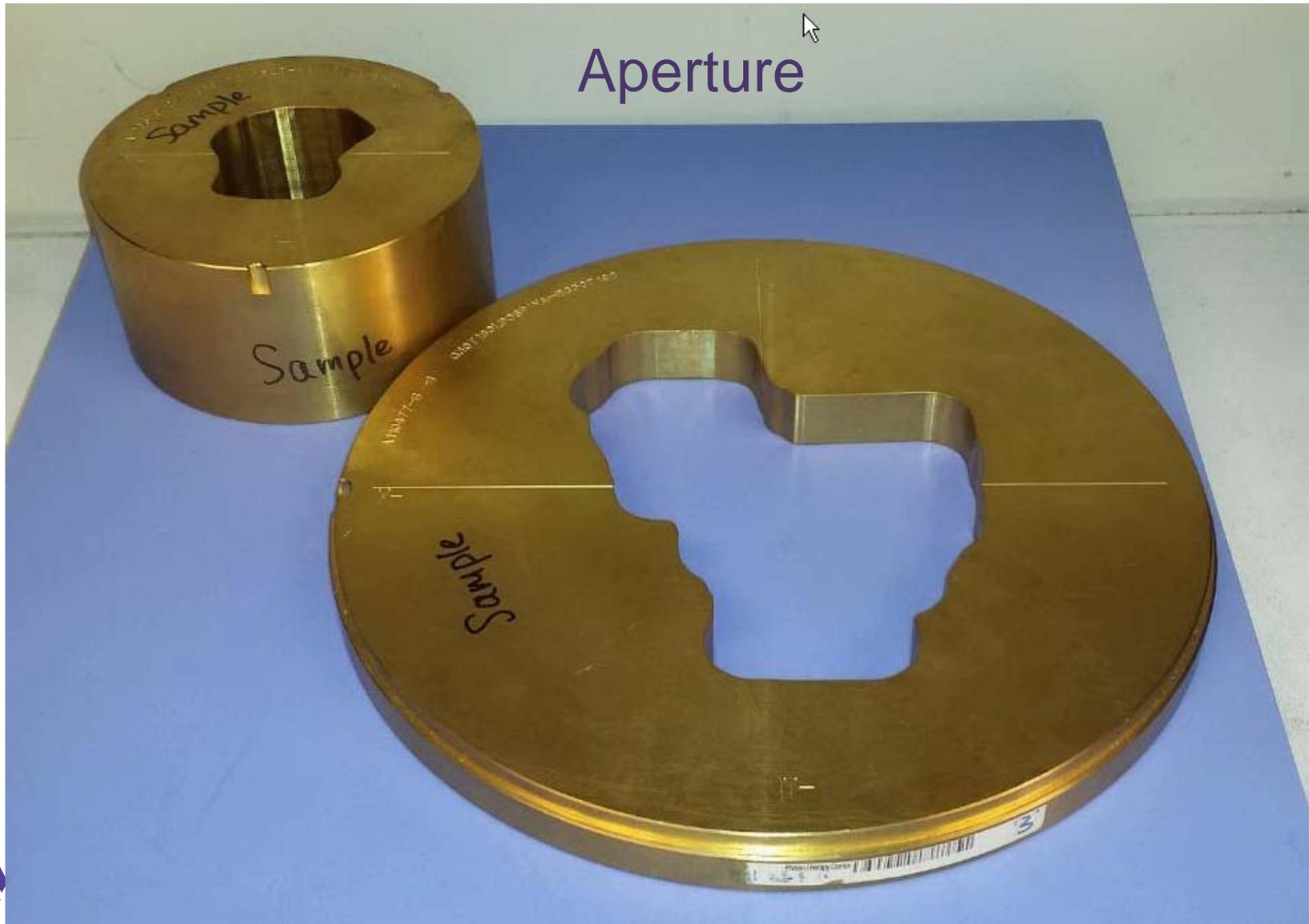
Range and Modulation



Spreading the beam across the field

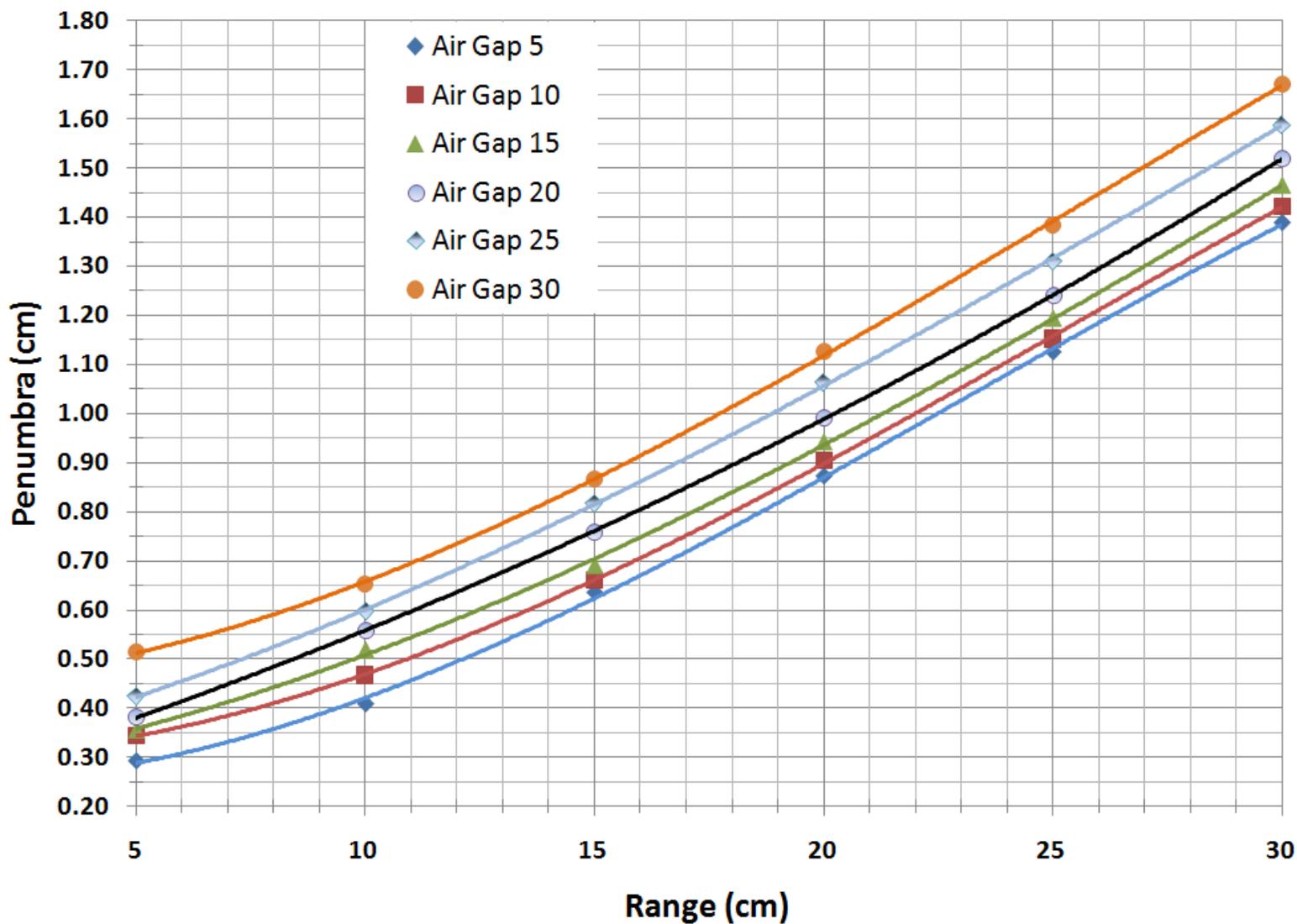


Patient Specific Devices



Aperture Design

95% Penumbra

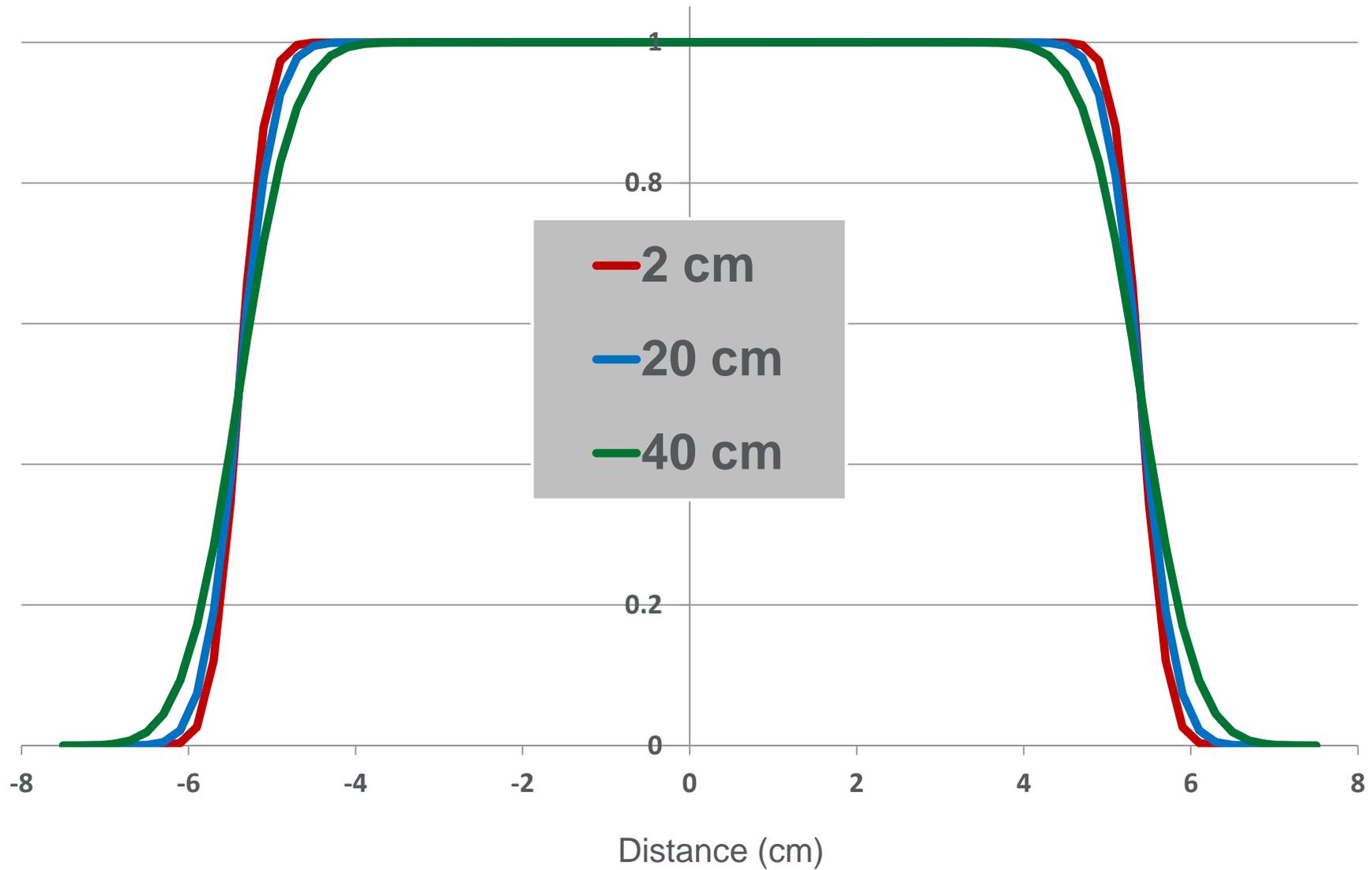


Brass Aperture mounted in Treatment Snout

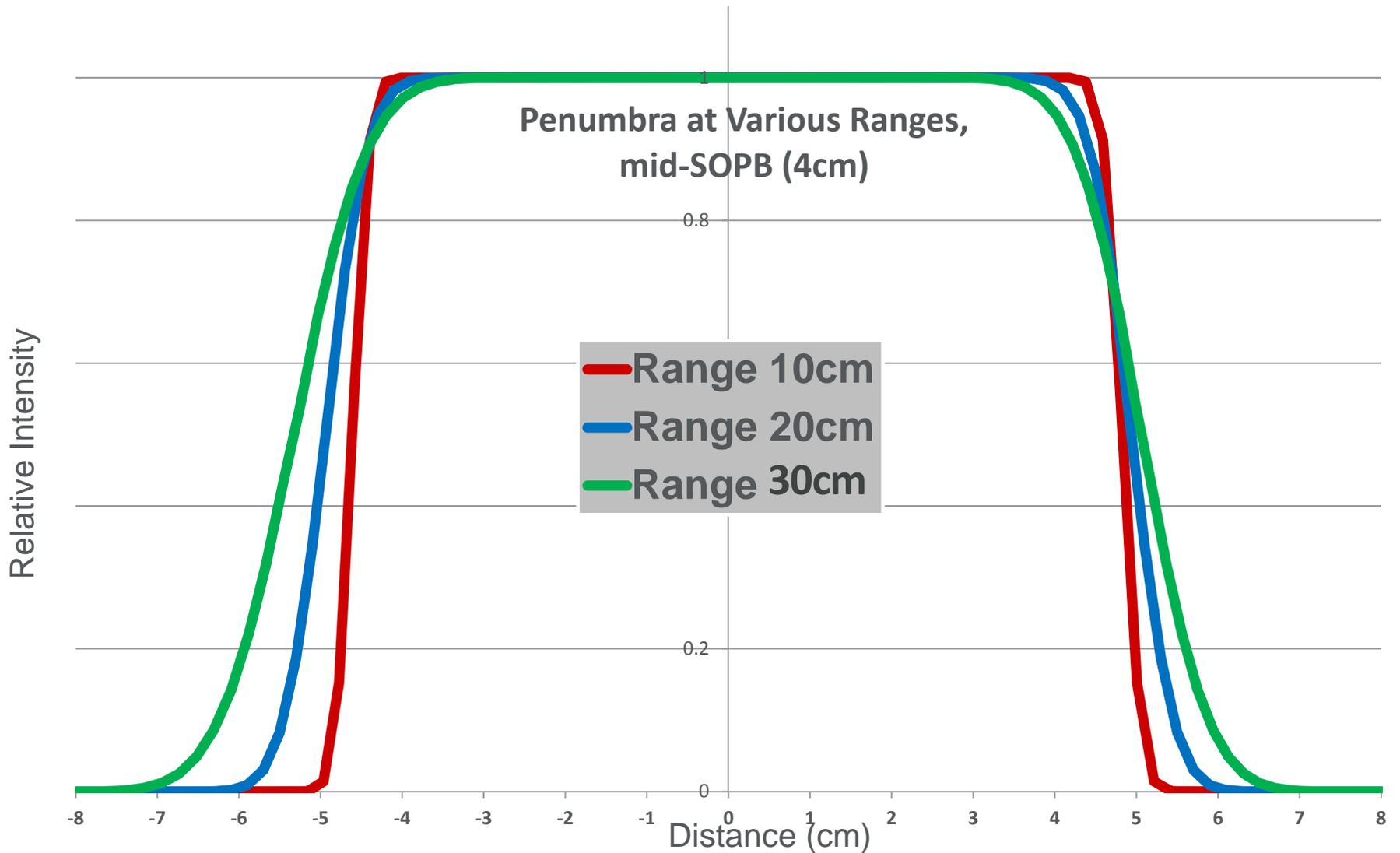




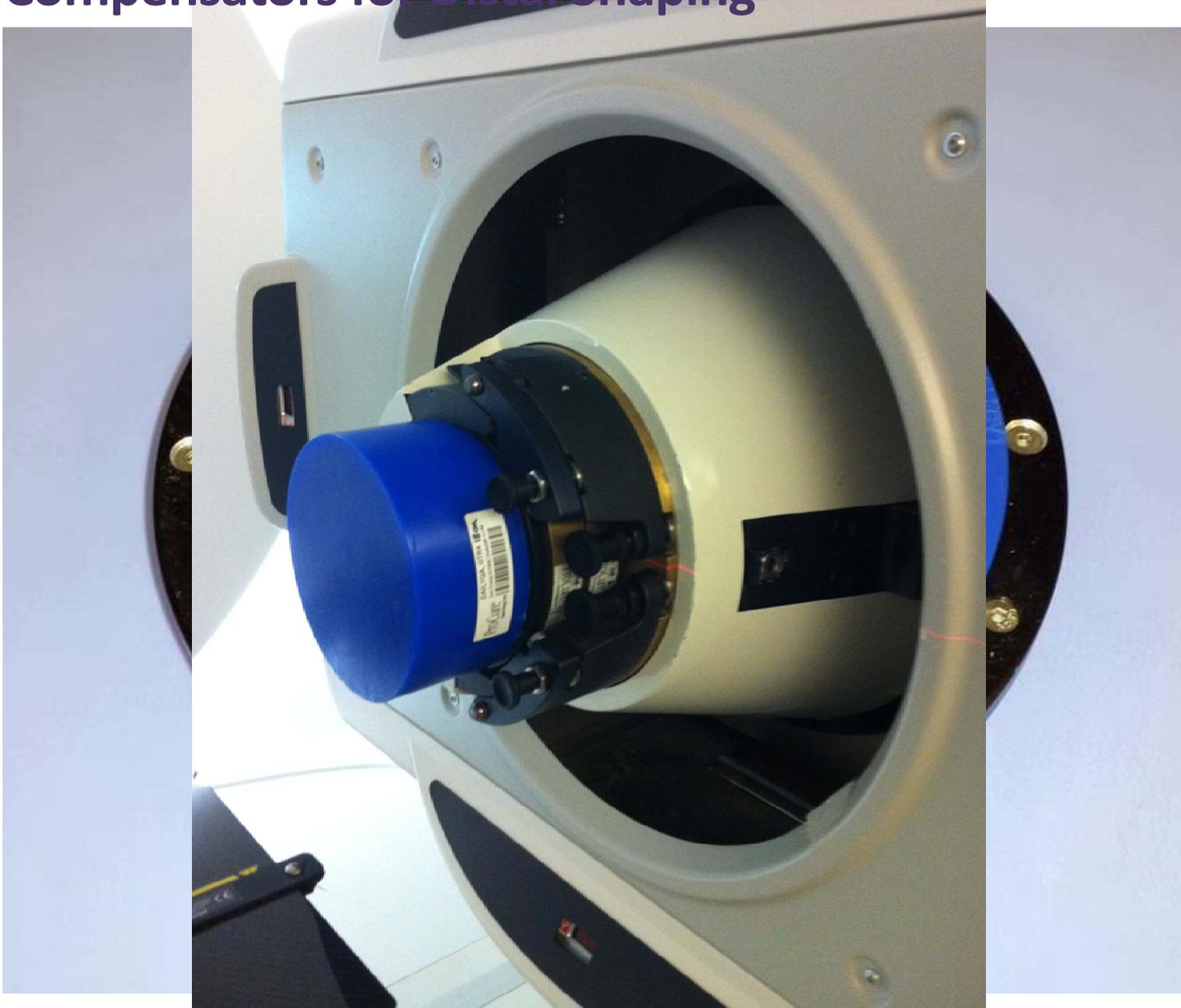
Penumbra at Various Air Gaps



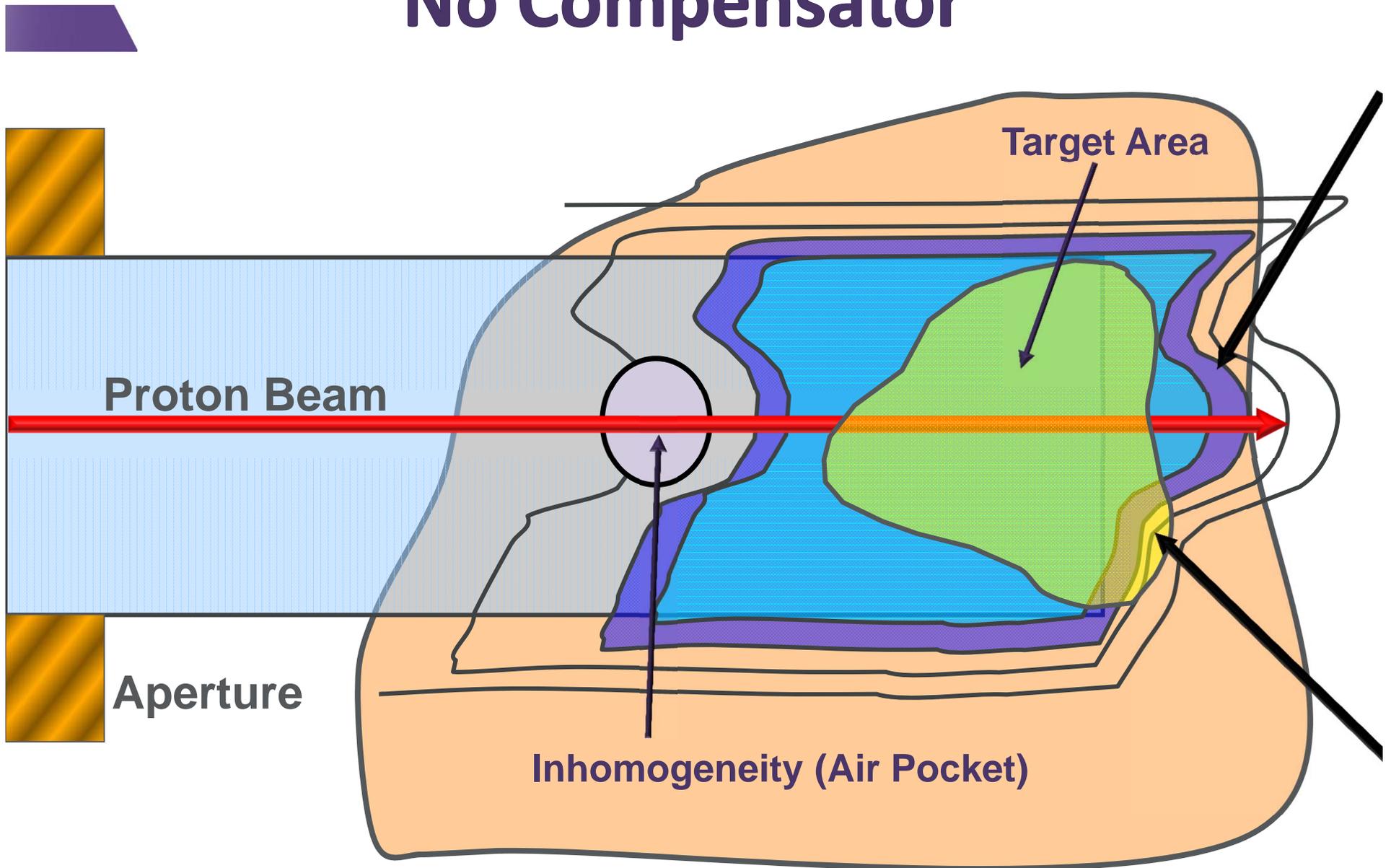
Penumbra as Mid SOBP at various ranges



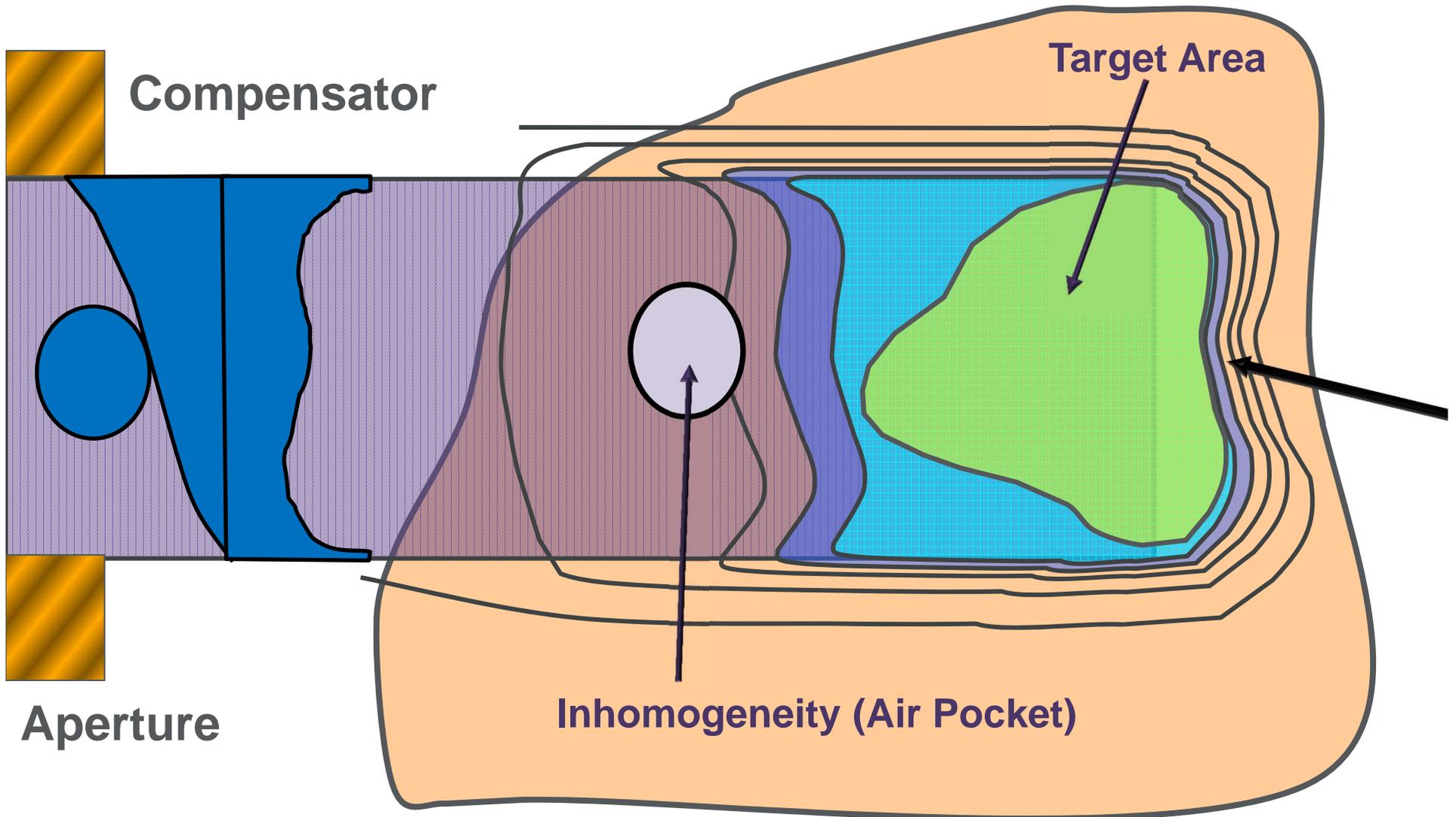
Compensators for Distal Shaping



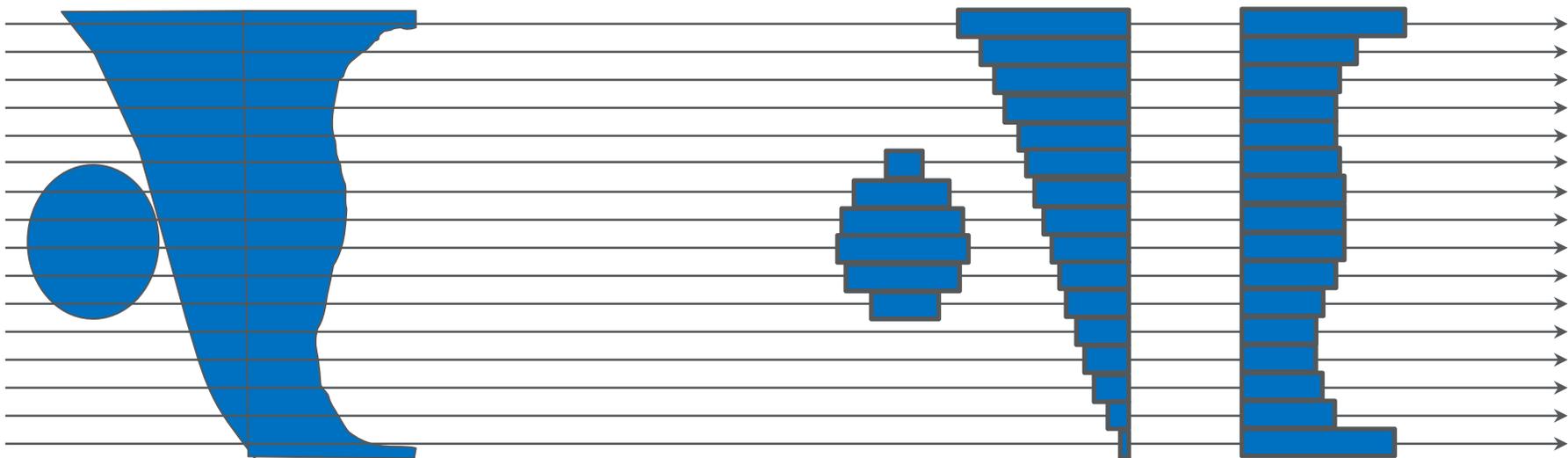
No Compensator



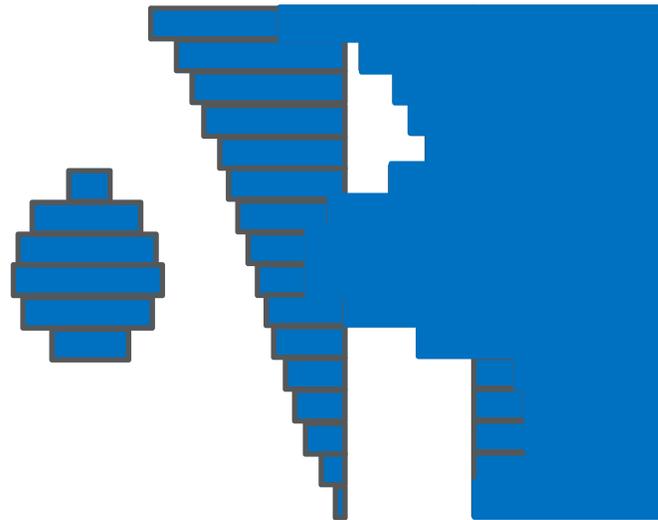
With Compensator



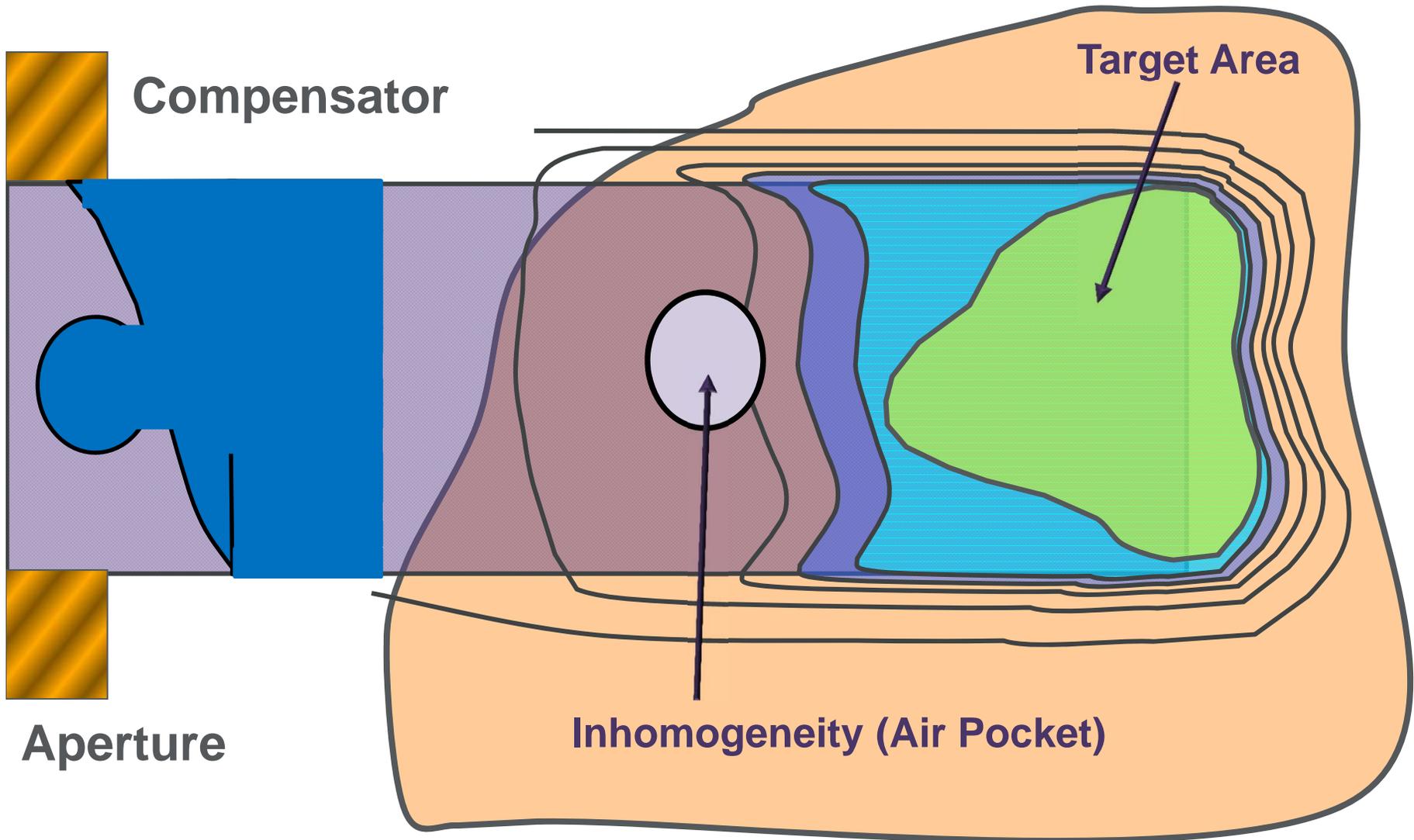
Design of the compensator



Design of the compensator



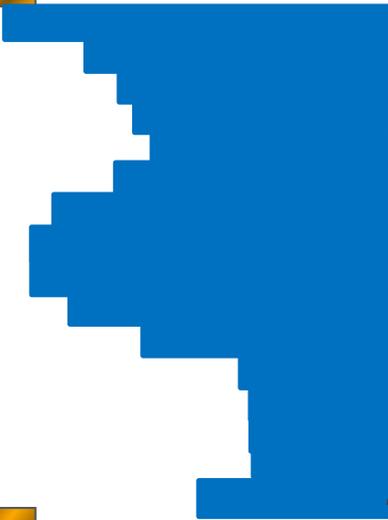
With Discrete Compensator



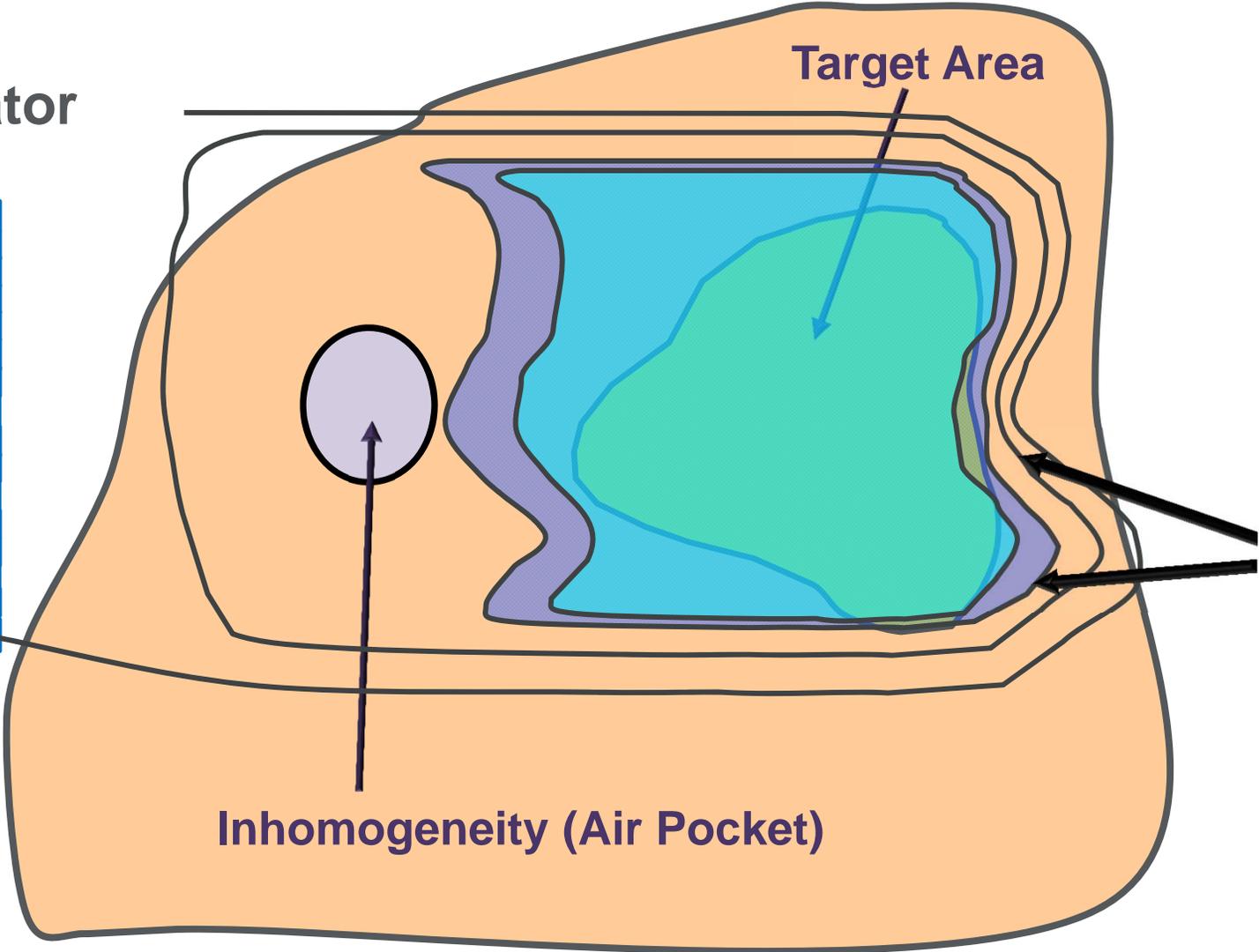
With Discrete Compensator



Compensator

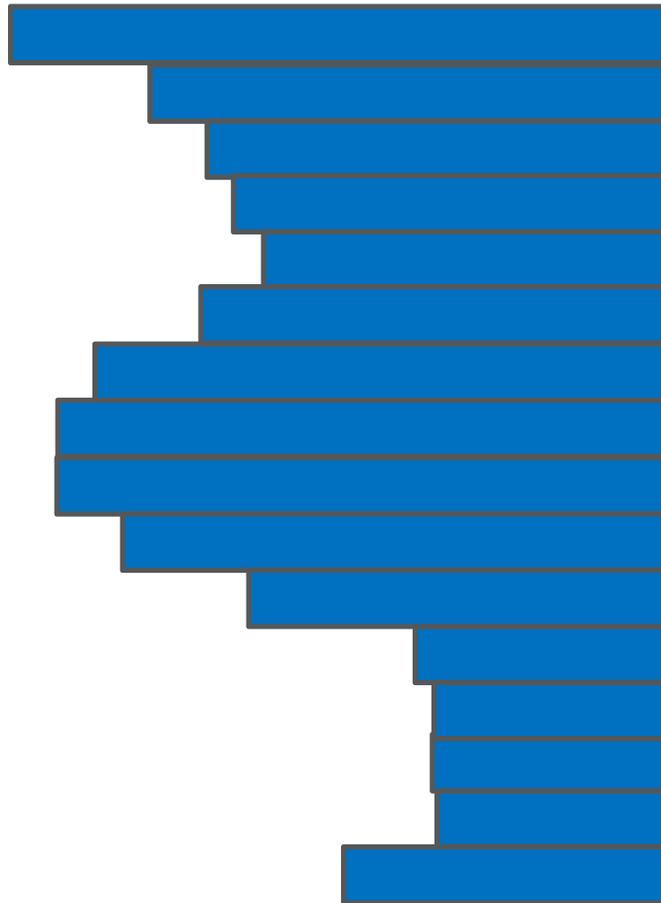
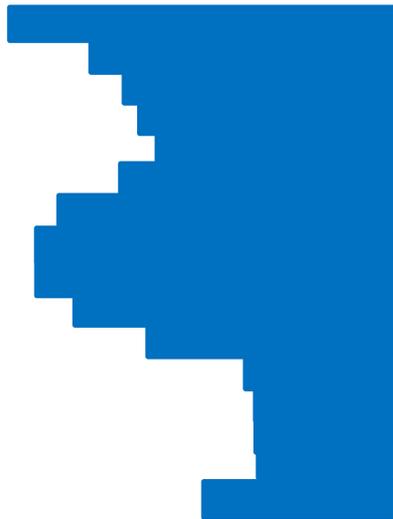


Aperture



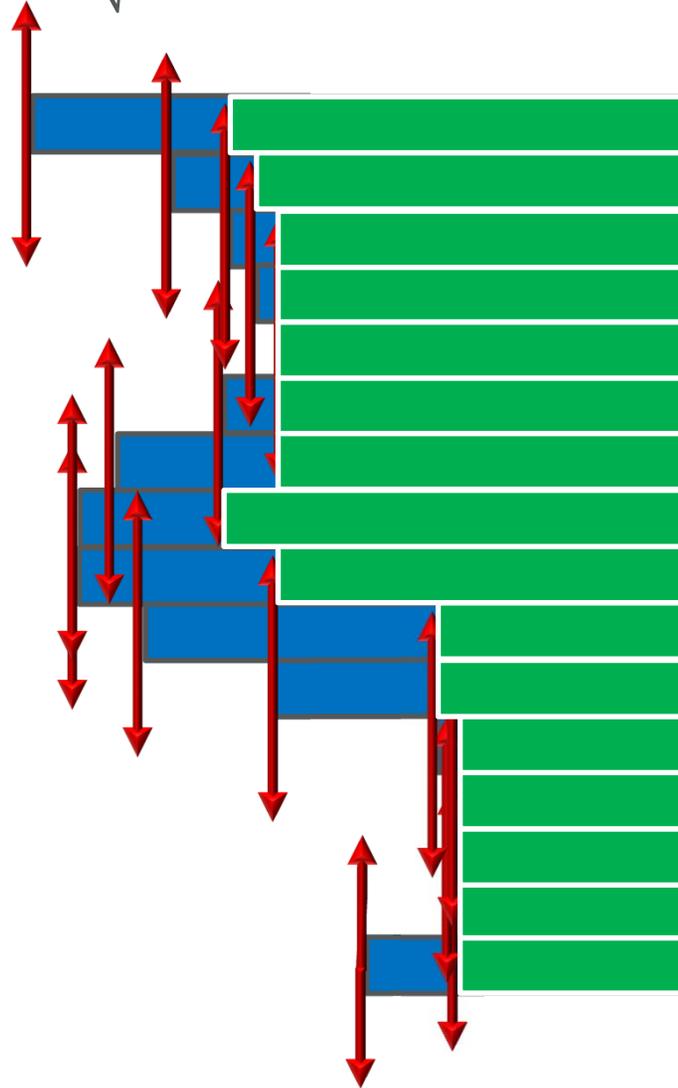


Smearing



Smearing

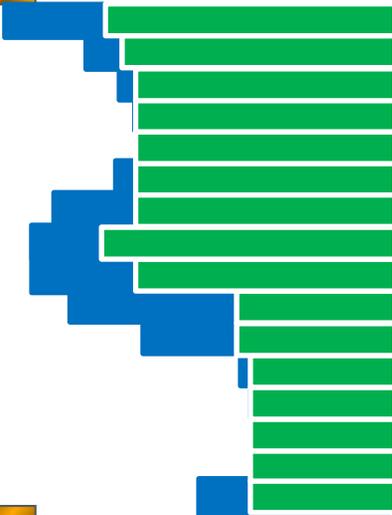
$$\text{Smearing Radius}^* = \sqrt{(\text{Set up Margin})^2 + (\text{Int Motion})^2 + (0.03 * \text{Depth})^2}$$



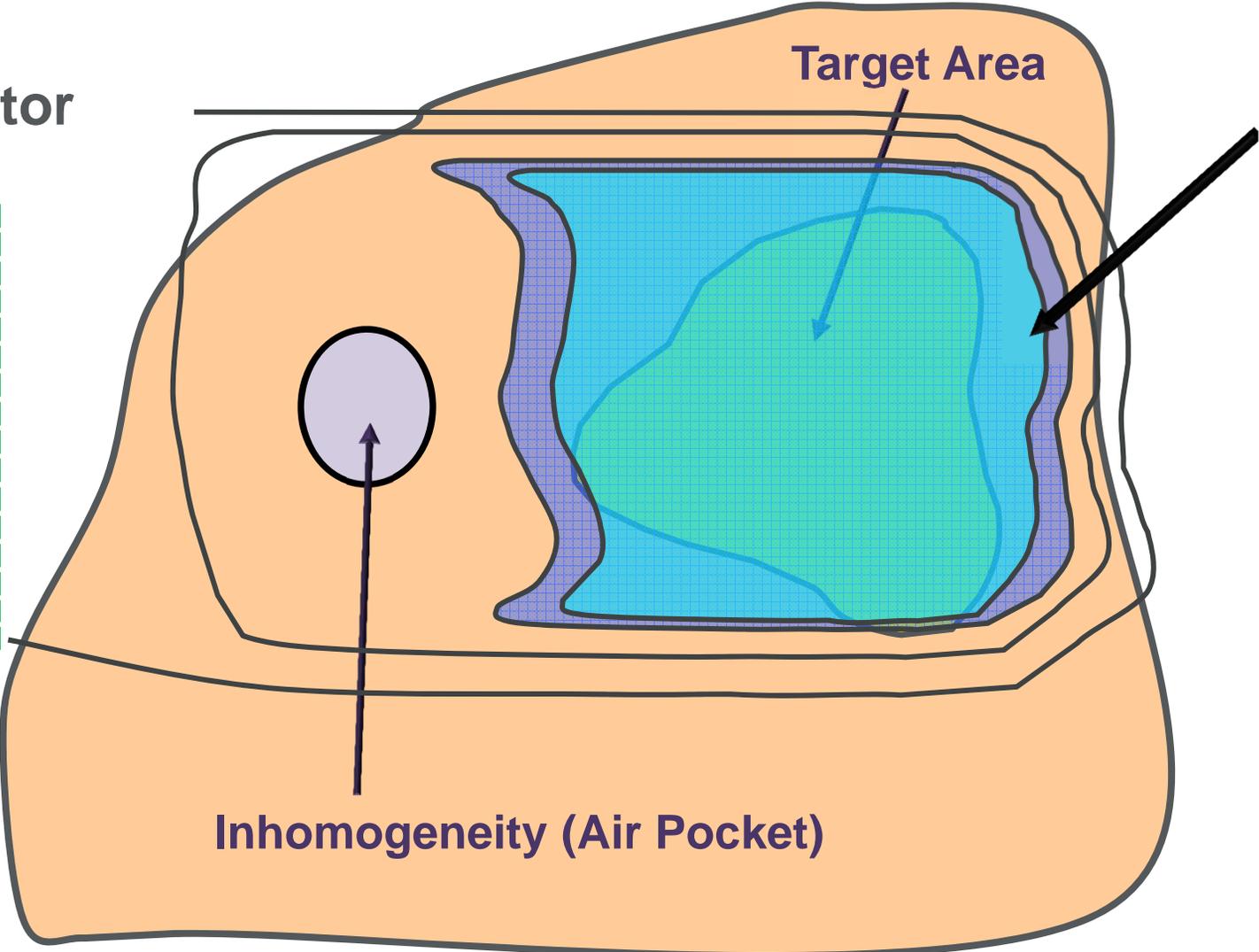
With Discrete Compensator



Compensator



Aperture



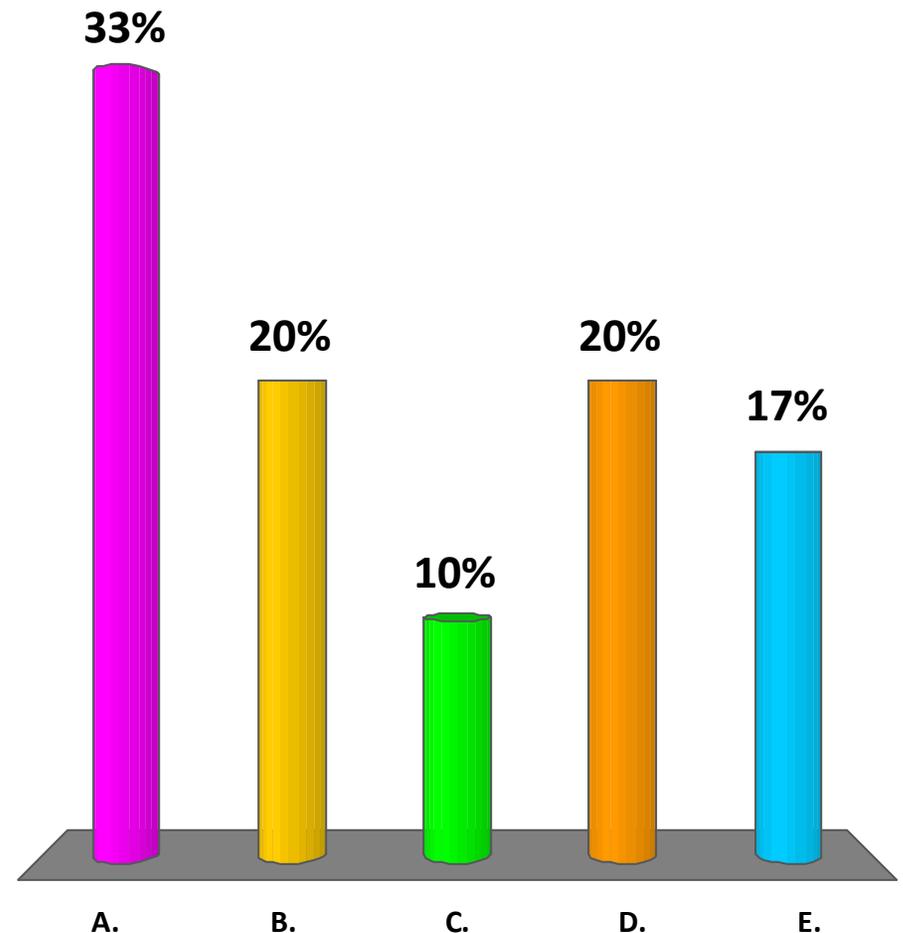
Smearing

- Sacrificing distal conformity to ensure you have enough range (and modulation) to cover the target
- Accounts for the fact that treatment path lengths may be different than planned path lengths due to set-up errors and internal motion.
- Can easily be built into compensator design
- Not directly accounted for in PBS

Question 1

Which statement is true regarding the smearing radius in compensator based proton therapy?:

- A. Smearing helps to increase dose conformity to the target.
- B. Smearing decreases range uncertainty
- C. Smearing is not necessary in inhomogeneous regions
- D. The magnitude of the smearing radius is related to the expected set-up errors , the internal motion and the range of the proton beam
- E. Smearing is directly applicable to photon treatments as well



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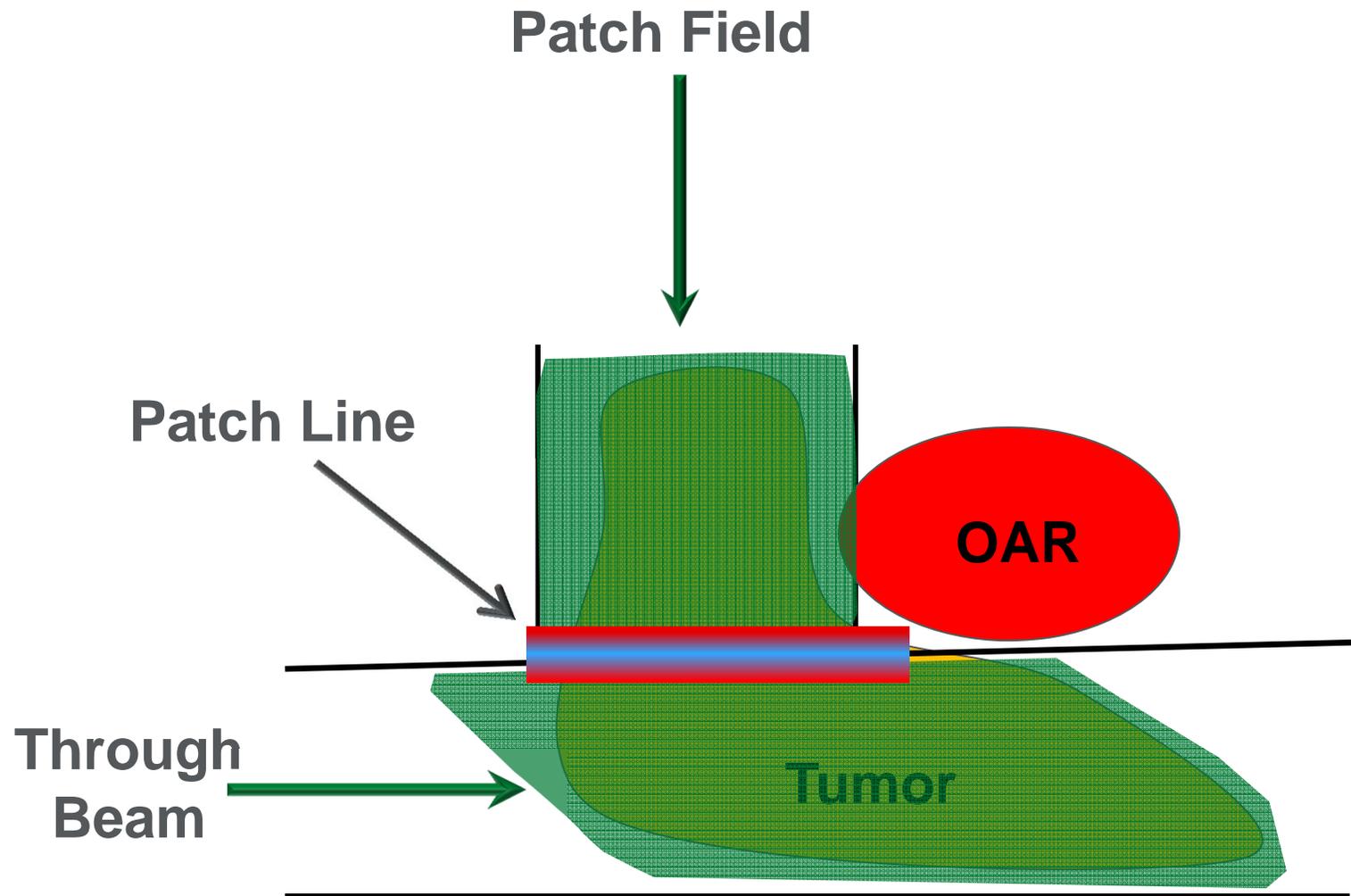
Correct Answer (d) : The magnitude of the smearing radius is related to the expected set-up errors, the internal motion and the range of the proton beam

Reference : Moyers, et.al I.J. Rad Onc Bio Phy, 2001

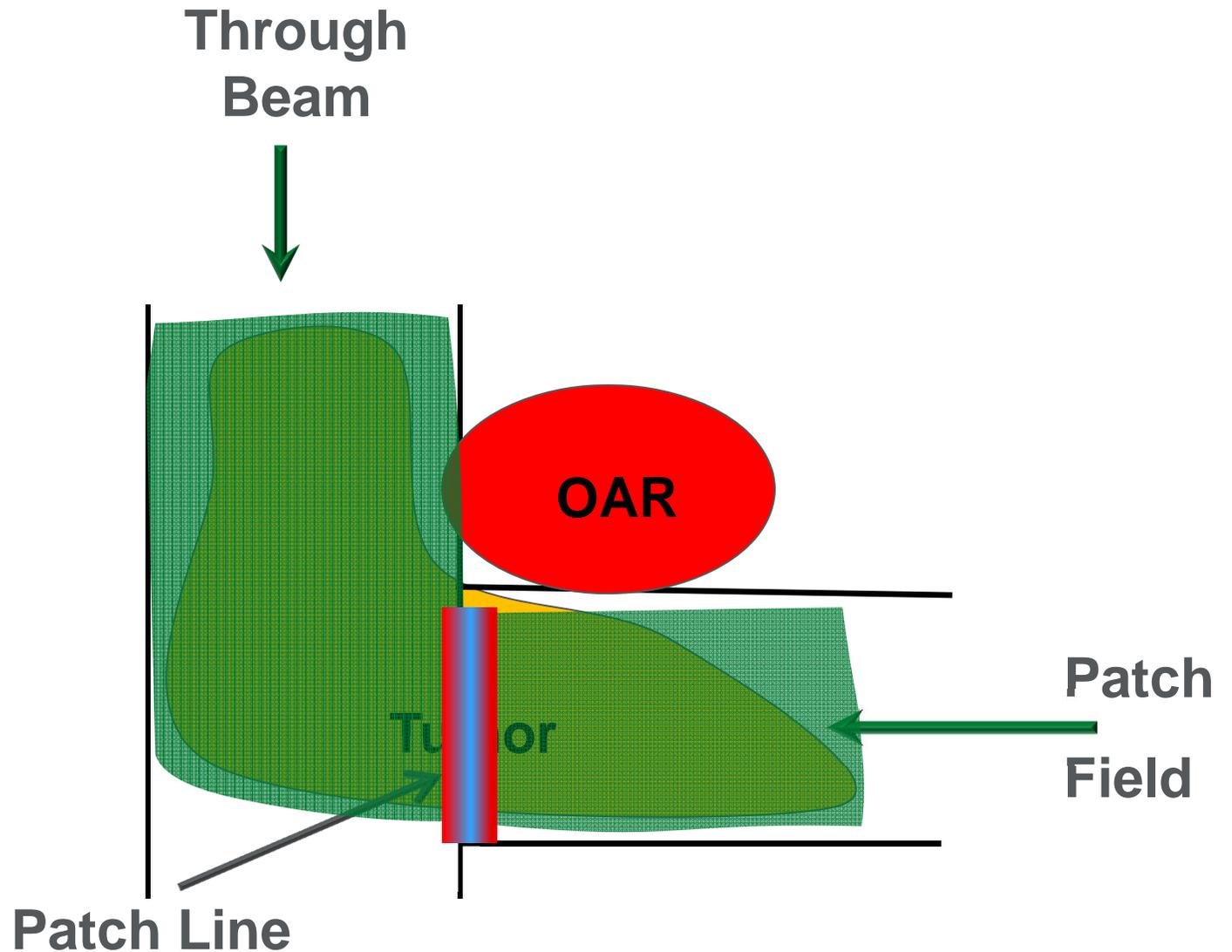
ICRU 78



Patch Field Technique



Patch Field Technique : Match Line Change



Norm: Abs

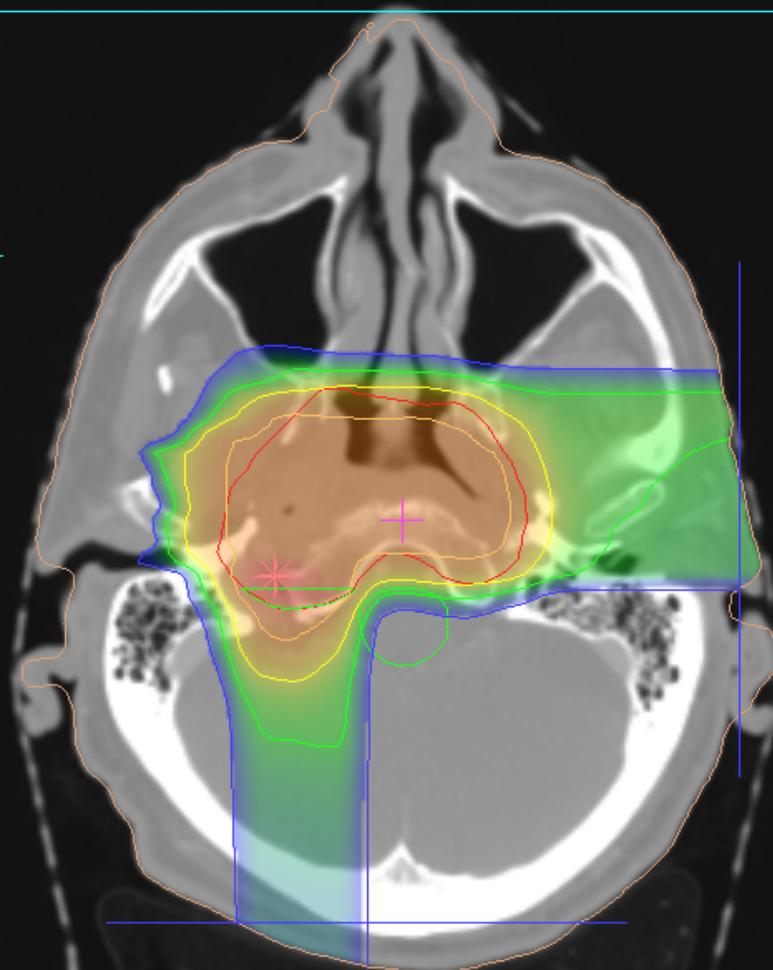
ref pnt X(cm) : -2.79
Y(cm) : -6.20
Z(cm) : 0.97
dose(cGy) : 48.3
global max(cGy) : 71.9
local max(cGy) : 59.0

Nominal

RC ID: CompBeam1

Isovalues (cGy)

60.0
47.5
35.0
22.5
10.0

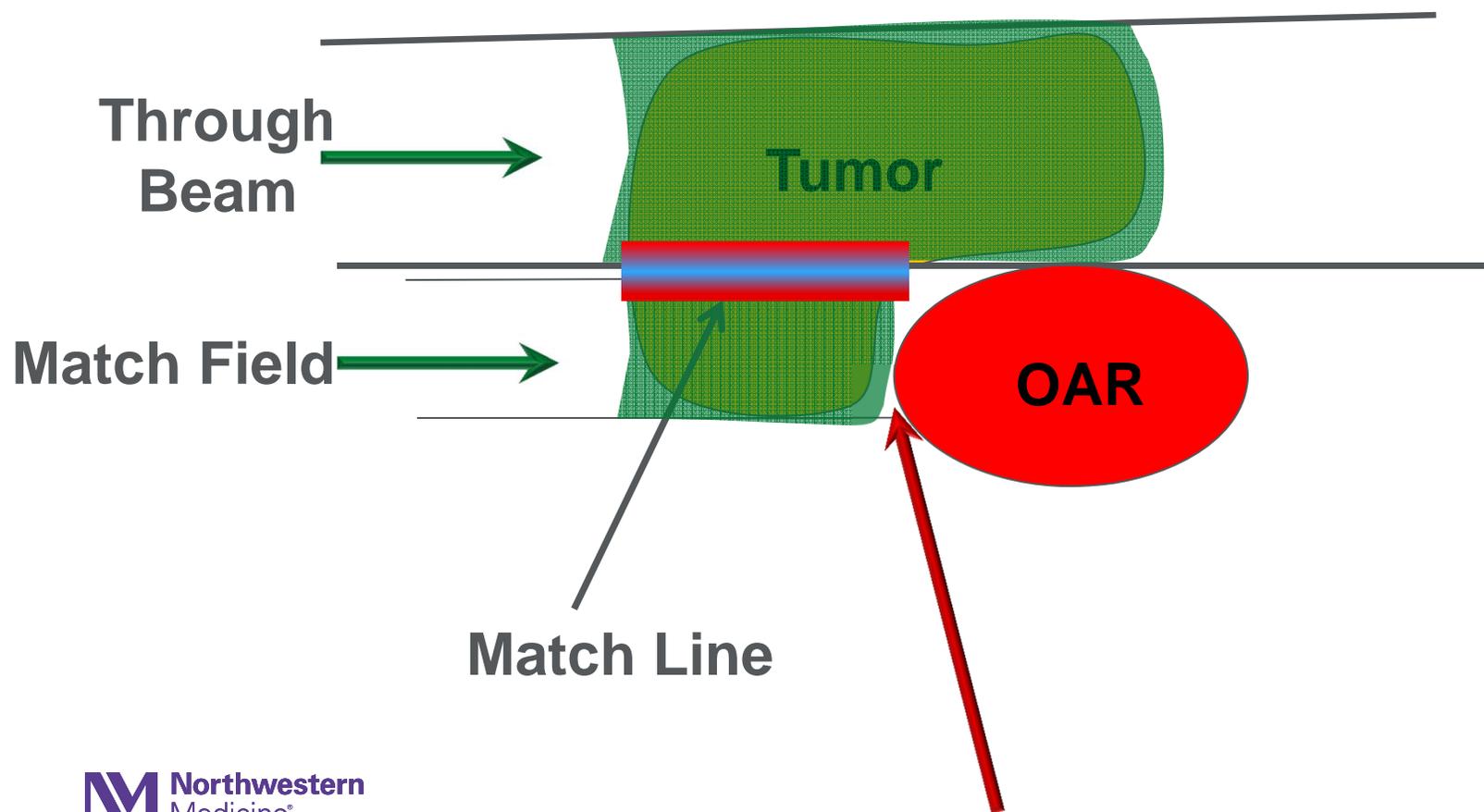


Maximized

T: -5.20 (cm)

Scale=1: 1.41

Match Technique



Norm: Abs

ref pnt X(cm): -0.42

Y(cm): -1.95

Z(cm): 0.85

Nominal

dose(cGy): 23.5

global max(cGy): 61.5

local max(cGy): 60.0

Isovalues(cGy)

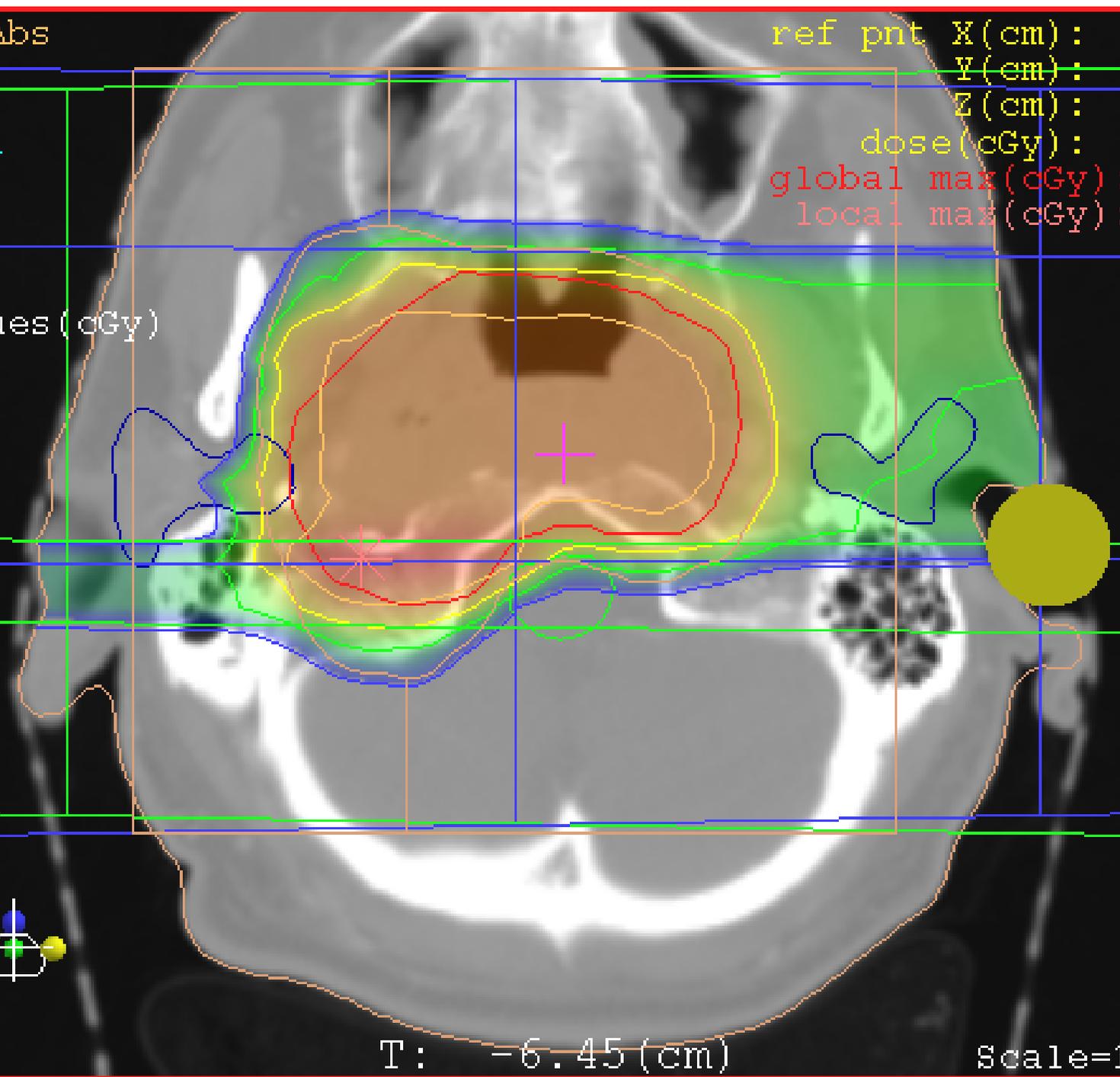
60.0

47.5

35.0

22.5

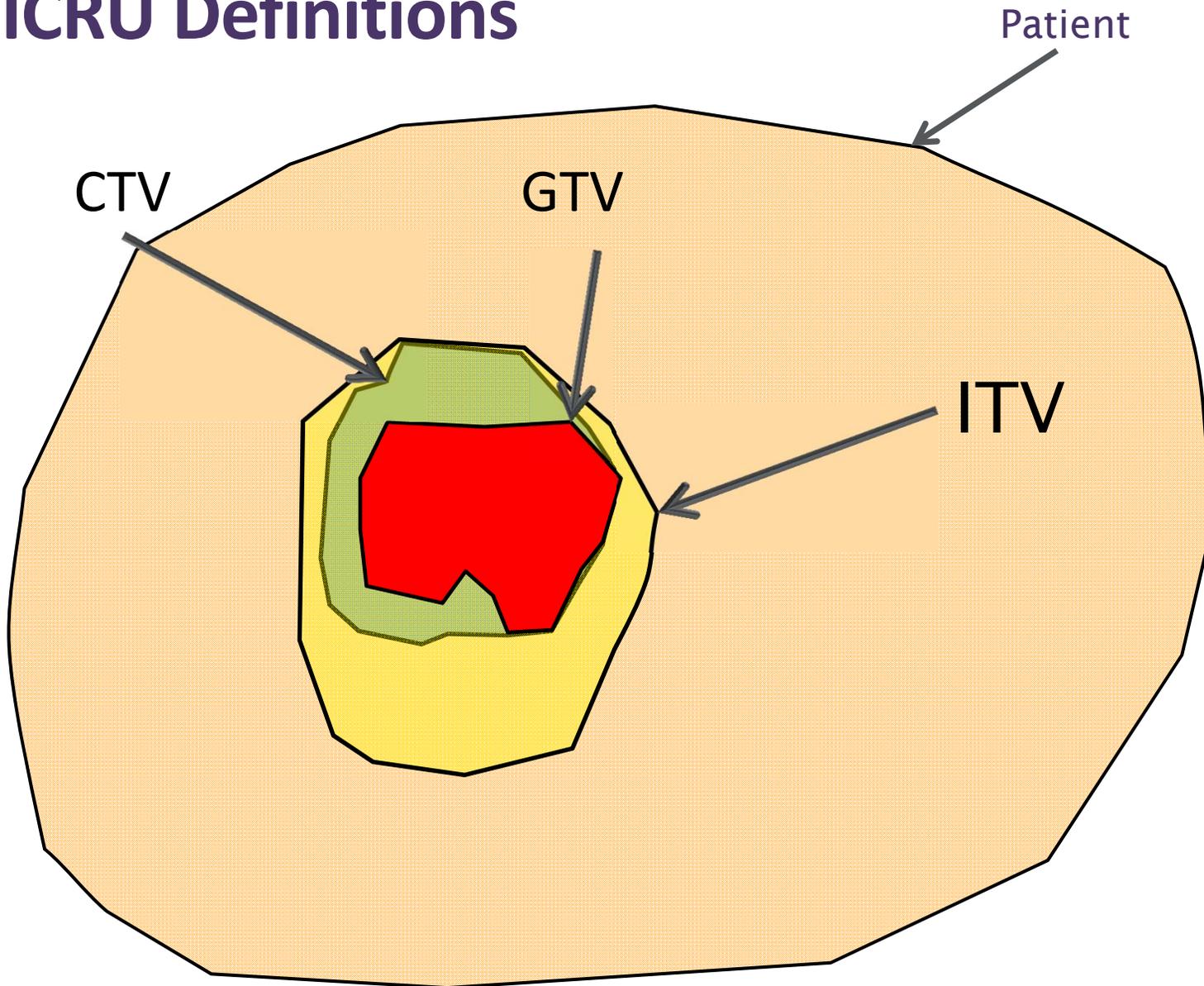
10.0



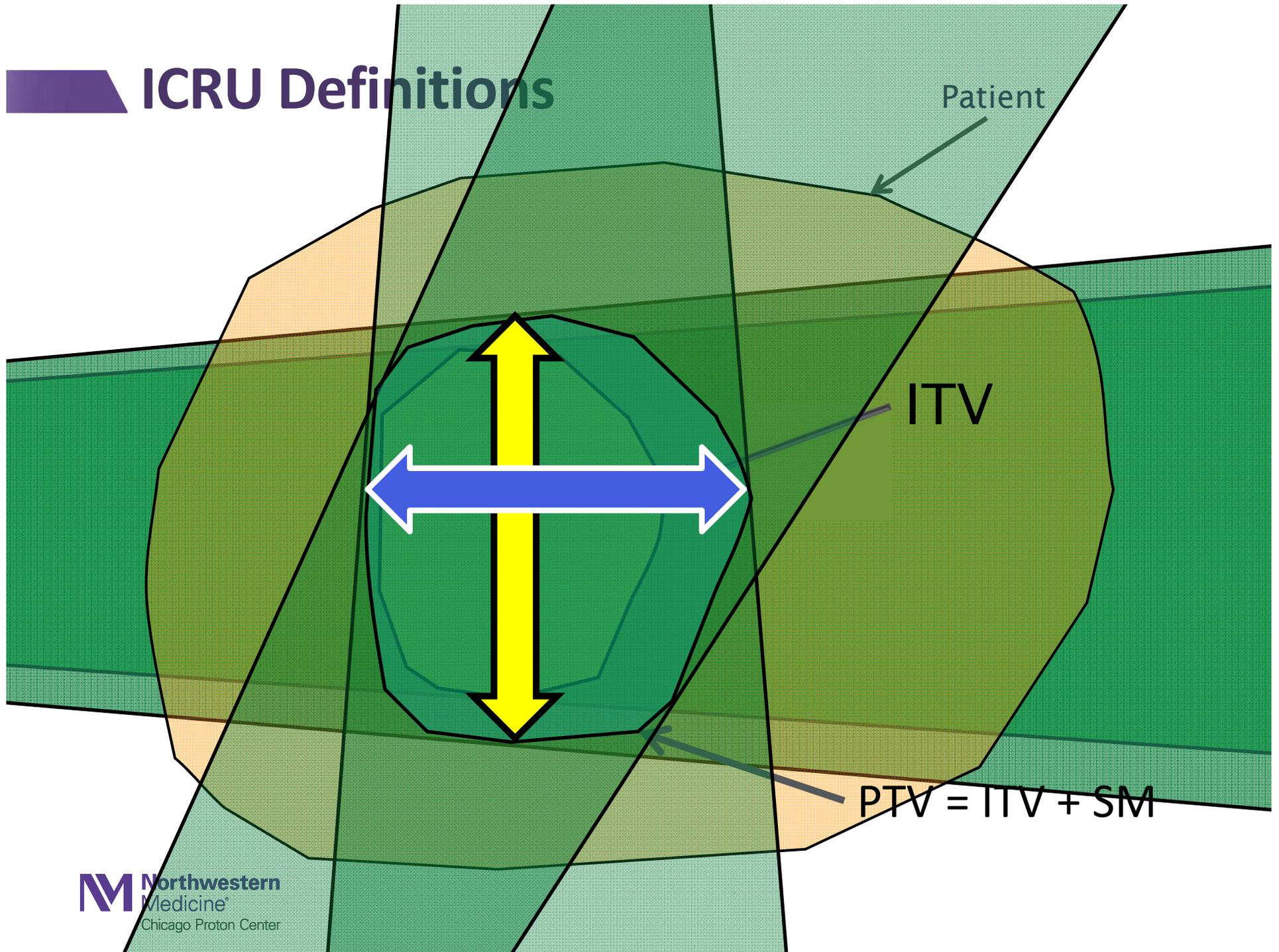
T: -6.45 (cm)

Scale=1: 1.53

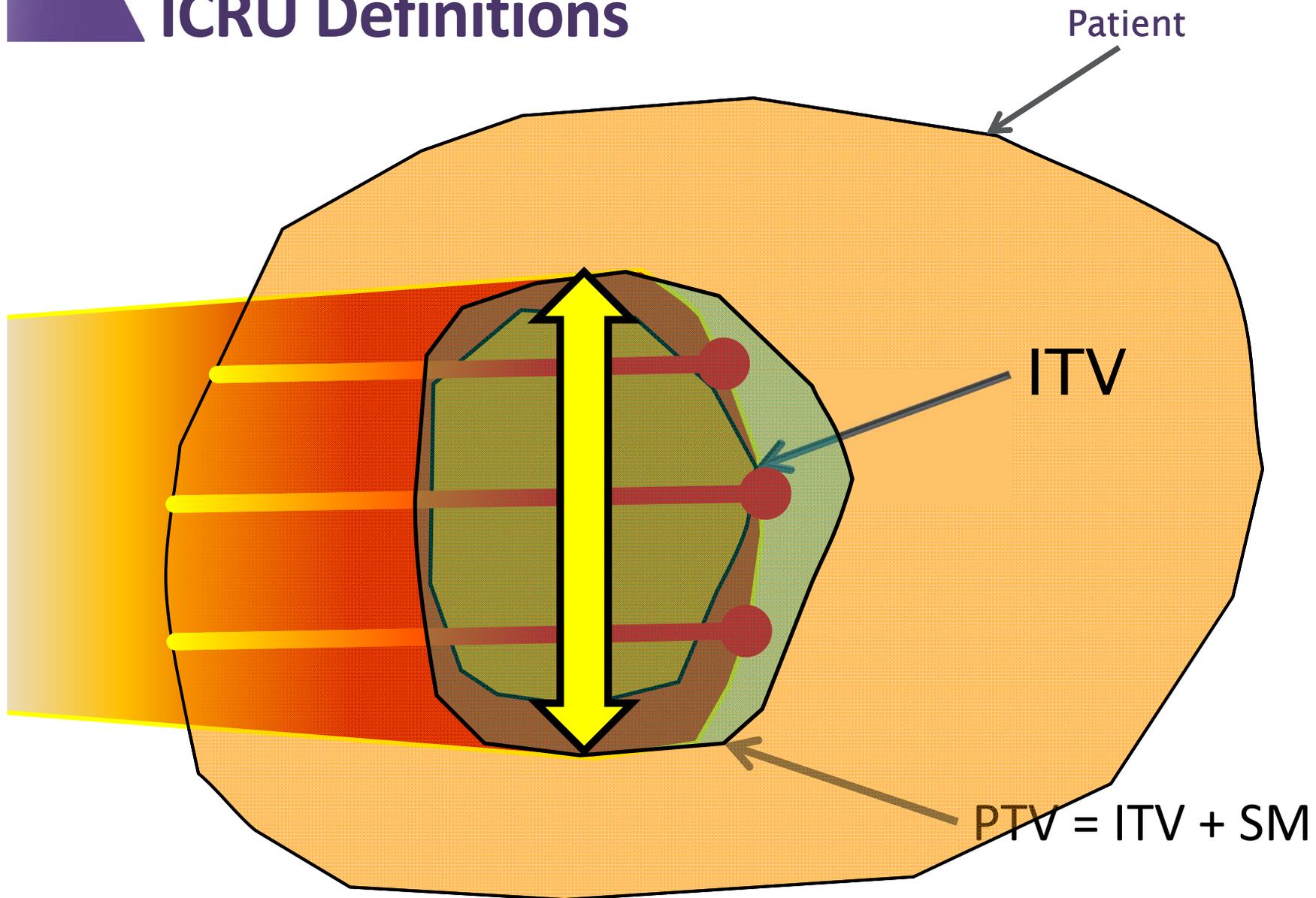
ICRU Definitions



ICRU Definitions



ICRU Definitions





Protons need no distal Set-up margin?

**But.... What about
Range Uncertainties**

Where do range uncertainties come from ??

• De

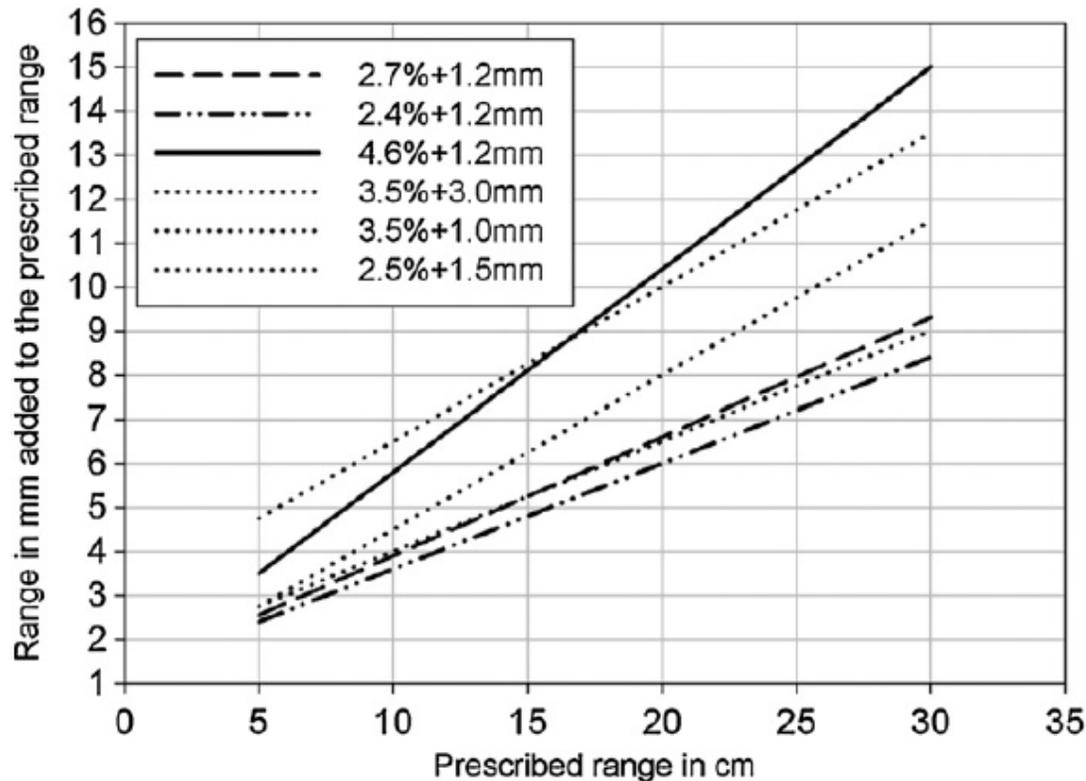


Figure 12. Dotted lines: typically applied range uncertainty margins in proton therapy treatment planning as currently typically applied at the MGH (3.5% + 1 mm), the MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center in Houston (3.5% + 3 mm), the Loma Linda University Medical Center (3.5% + 3 mm), the Roberts Proton Therapy Center at the University of Pennsylvania (3.5% + 3 mm) and the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute (2.5% + 1.5 mm). Note that these centers may apply bigger margins in specific treatment scenarios. Dashed line: estimated uncertainty without the use of Monte Carlo dose calculation. Solid line: estimated uncertainty for complex geometries without the use of Monte Carlo dose calculation. Dashed-dotted line: estimated uncertainty with the use of Monte Carlo dose calculation.

Moyers : Ion Stopping Powers and CT Numbers

Table 7. Summary of estimated uncertainties in treatment planning due to CT numbers and stopping powers

Cause	Uncertainty Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Uncertainty After Mitigation	Possible Future Uncertainty
Scanner calibration for standard conditions kVp, filter, and FOV selection	$\pm 0.3\%$ day-to-day $\pm 2.0\%$ PMMA, PC $> \pm 2.0\%$ bone	Patient-specific scaling Use only calibrated conditions	$\pm 0.0\%$ $\pm 0.0\%$	$\pm 0.0\%$ $\pm 0.0\%$
Volume and configuration scanned	$\pm 2.5\%$	Patient-specific scaling	$\pm 0.0\%$	$\pm 0.0\%$
Position in scan	$\pm 1.5\%$ water $\pm 2.5\%$ tissue $> \pm 3.0\%$ bone	—	$\pm 1.5\%$ water* $\pm 2.5\%$ tissue $> \pm 3.0\%$ bone*	$\pm 0.5\%$ water ^{DE*} $\pm 0.8\%$ tissue ^{DE} $> \pm 1.0\%$ bone ^{DE*}
Metal implants	100%	$z \leq 22$ – MVXCT $z > 22$ - substitution	$\pm 5.0\%$ metal*	$\pm 5.0\%$ metal*
Stopping power of water	$\pm 1.0\%$	—	$\pm 1.0\%$	$\pm 0.5\%$
RLSP of tissues and devices	± 0.0 to 3.0%	Contour and substitute	$\pm 1.0\%$	$\pm 1.0\%$
WEQ vs. RLSP (soft tissues only)	$\pm 1.6\%$	—	± 1.6	± 1.6
Energy dependence of RLSP for low Z	$\pm 1.2\%$	—	± 1.2	$\pm 0.5^{\text{MC}}$
Total (soft tissues only)	—	—	± 3.5	± 2.2

Abbreviations: DE, dual-energy CT; MC, Monte Carlo calculations.

*Not considered in total.

Yang : Comprehensive analysis of proton range uncertainties related to patient stopping power ratio estimation using the stoichiometric calibration

Table 8. Estimates of uncertainties (1σ) in patient SPR estimation in current clinical practice.

Uncertainty source	Uncertainties in SPR estimation (1σ)		
	Lung (%)	Soft (%)	Bone (%)
Uncertainties in patient CT imaging	3.3	0.6	1.5
Uncertainties in the parameterized stoichiometric formula to calculate theoretical CT numbers	3.8	0.8	0.5
Uncertainties due to deviation of actual human body tissue from ICRU standard tissue	0.2	1.2	1.6
Uncertainties in mean excitation energies	0.2	0.2	0.6
Uncertainties due to energy dependence of SPR not accounted by dose algorithm	0.2	0.2	0.4
Total (root-sum-square)	5.0	1.6	2.4

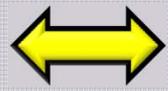
Table 9. Median, 90th percentile and 95th percentile of composite range uncertainties and the corresponding percentile when the range uncertainty is 3.5% at different clinical sites.

Tumor site	Composite range uncertainty (%)			Percentile when range uncertainty = 3.5%
	Median	90th percentile	95th percentile	
Prostate	1.3	2.5	3.0	98%
Lung	1.5	2.9	3.4	96%
Head and neck	1.3	2.6	3.0	98%

Paganetti : Range uncertainties in proton therapy and the role of Monte Carlo simulations

Source of range uncertainty in the patient	Range uncertainty without Monte Carlo	Range uncertainty with Monte Carlo
Independent of dose calculation		
Measurement uncertainty in water for commissioning	± 0.3 mm	± 0.3 mm
Compensator design	± 0.2 mm	± 0.2 mm
Beam reproducibility	± 0.2 mm	± 0.2 mm
Patient setup	± 0.7 mm	± 0.7 mm
Dose calculation		
Biology (always positive) ^	$+\sim 0.8\%$	$+\sim 0.8\%$
CT imaging and calibration	$\pm 0.5\%a$	$\pm 0.5\%a$
CT conversion to tissue (excluding I-values)	$\pm 0.5\%b$	$\pm 0.2\%g$
CT grid size	$\pm 0.3\%c$	$\pm 0.3\%c$
Mean excitation energy (I-values) in tissues	$\pm 1.5\%d$	$\pm 1.5\%d$
Range degradation; complex inhomogeneities	$-0.7\%e$	$\pm 0.1\%$
Range degradation; local lateral inhomogeneities *	$\pm 2.5\%f$	$\pm 0.1\%$
Total (excluding *, ^)	$2.7\% + 1.2$ mm	$2.4\% + 1.2$ mm
Total (excluding ^)	$4.6\% + 1.2$ mm	$2.4\% + 1.2$ mm

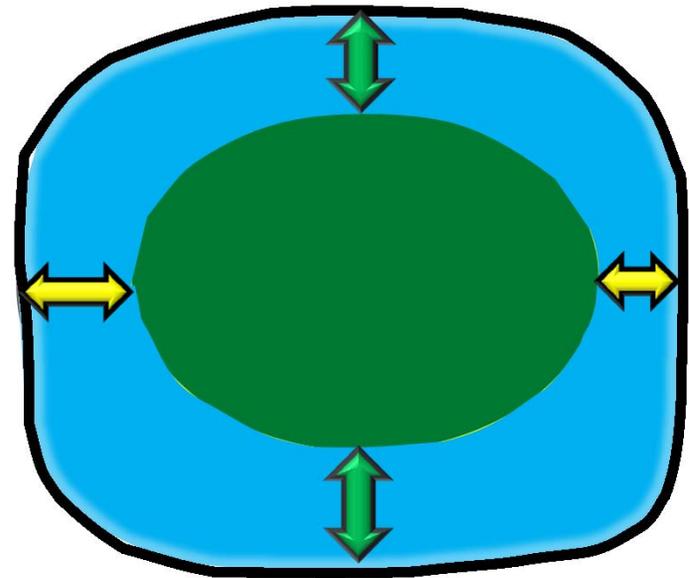
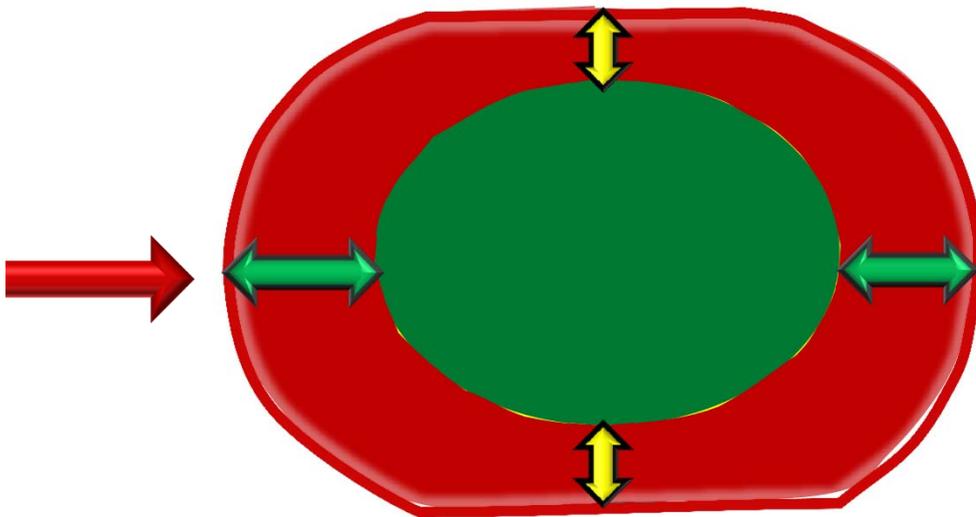
Adding Setup and Range Uncertainty with Protons



Perpendicular Expansion
Physical Distance
(cm)



Parallel Expansion
Radiobiological Depth
(WET)



Measure [X]

Graphics Measure

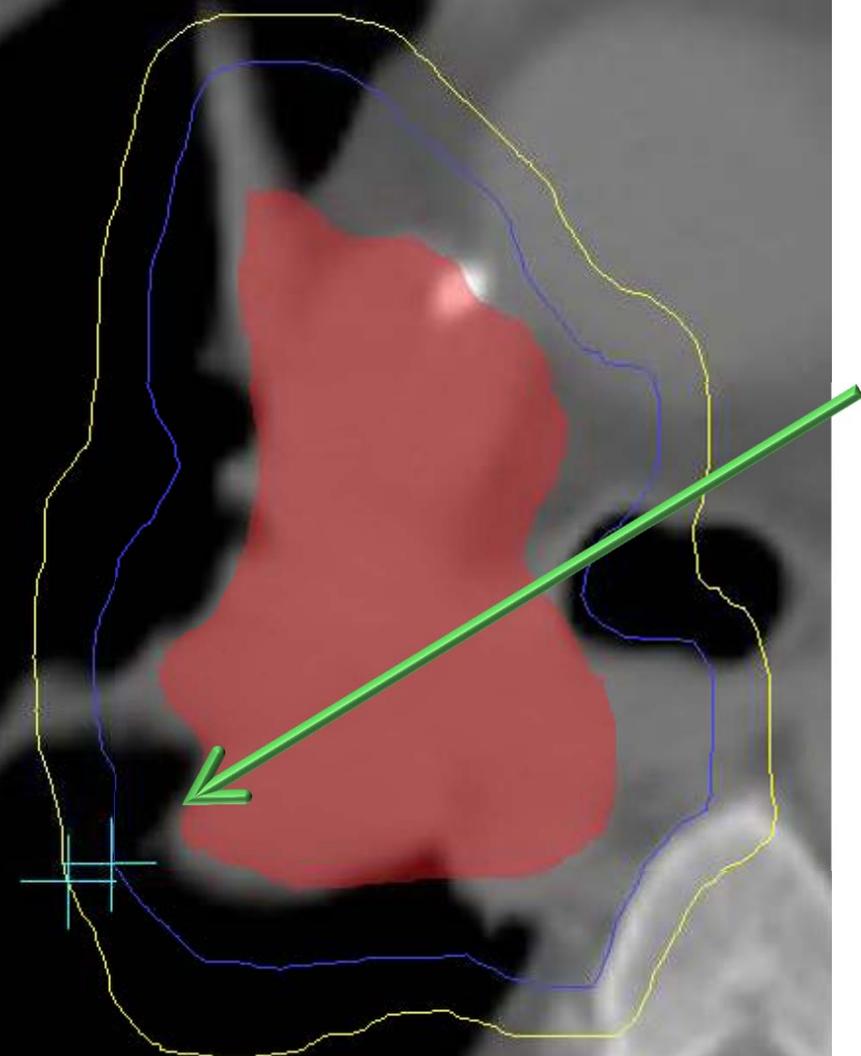
Point Location 1:
X(cm): -7.56
Y(cm): -15.90
Z(cm): -0.52
CT: -531 Relative Electron Density: 0.447

Point Location 2:
X(cm): -8.02
Y(cm): -15.90
Z(cm): -0.71
CT: -740 Relative Electron Density: 0.229

Distance Between Points(cm): 0.50
Radiological Distance (cm): 0.12

Mouse buttons in SPV's
LEFT : Place point 1
MIDDLE : Place point 2

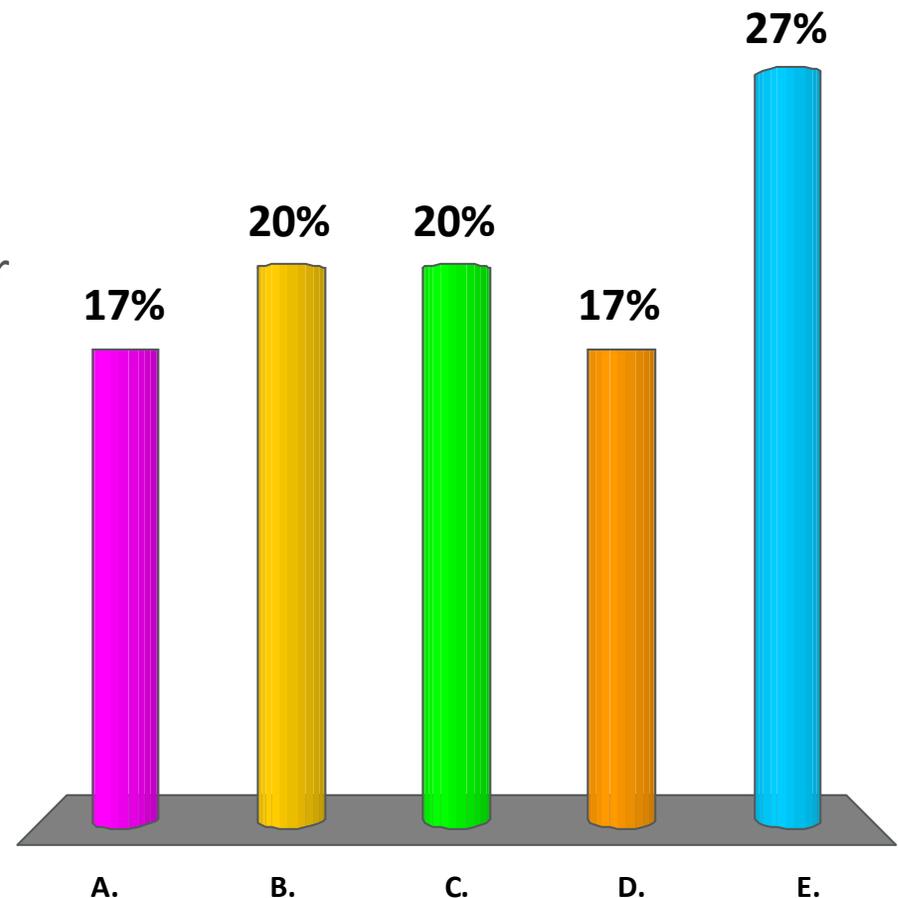
[] [] [CANCEL]



Question 2

Which statement is true about range uncertainty of a proton beam?

- A. Range Uncertainty can not be quantified.
- B. Range Uncertainty Is very poorly understood
- C. Range Uncertainty can be accounted for by adding a beam specific distal and proximal margins
- D. Range Uncertainty will completely eliminate the benefits of decreased integral dose given to the patient by a proton treatment
- E. Range Uncertainty will lead to lower tumor control rates for proton patients



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- e) Range Uncertainty will lead to lower tumor control rates for proton patients

Correct Answer (c) : Range Uncertainty can be accounted for by adding a beam specific distal and proximal margins

References : Moyers MF, et.al. : Med Dosim. 2010 Autumn;35(3):179-94.

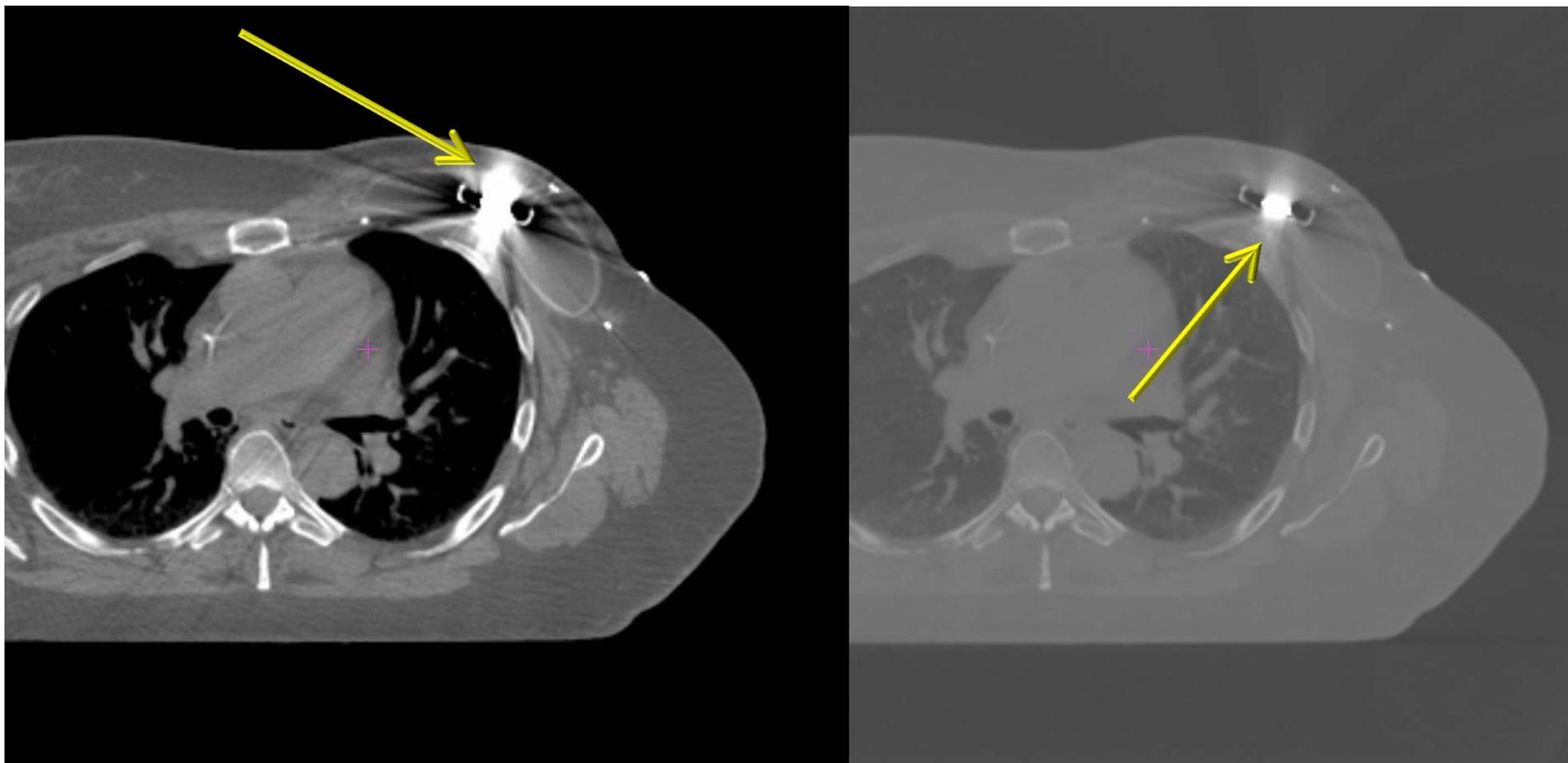
Yang M, et.al : Phys Med Biol. 2012 Jul 7;57(13):4095-115.

Paganetti, H : Phys Med Biol. 2012 Jun 7;57(11):R99-117.

HU Unit conversions

- Conversion from HU to RSP has inherent problems
 - Noise
 - Beam hardening
- Trying to make our CT scanner a spectrometer
 - Two tissues can have same HU but different RSP
- Anything not natural can have large errors.
 - Contrast
 - Fillings
 - Implants

Chestwall Expander



Breast Prosthesis

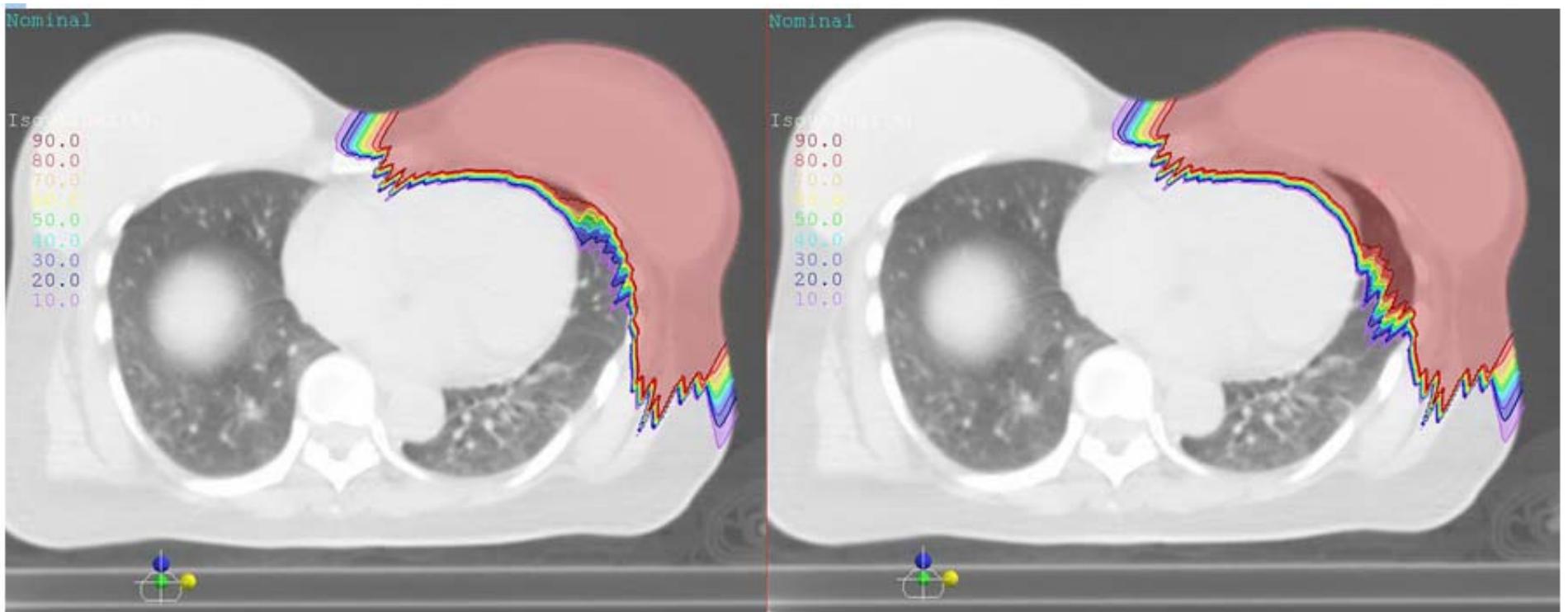


Fig. 3: Treatment plan for patient with silicone breast prosthesis. (a) Planned dose distribution without RLSP reassignment. (b) Delivered dose distribution if planned without proper pRLSP assignment.

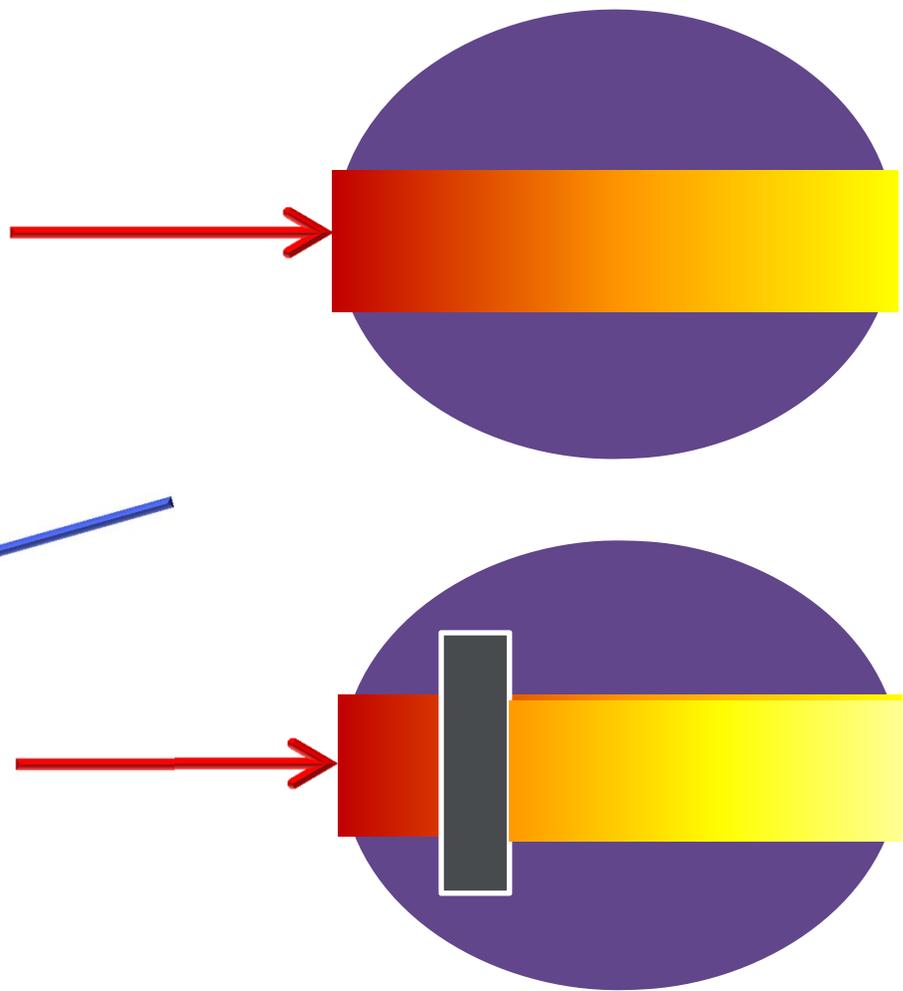
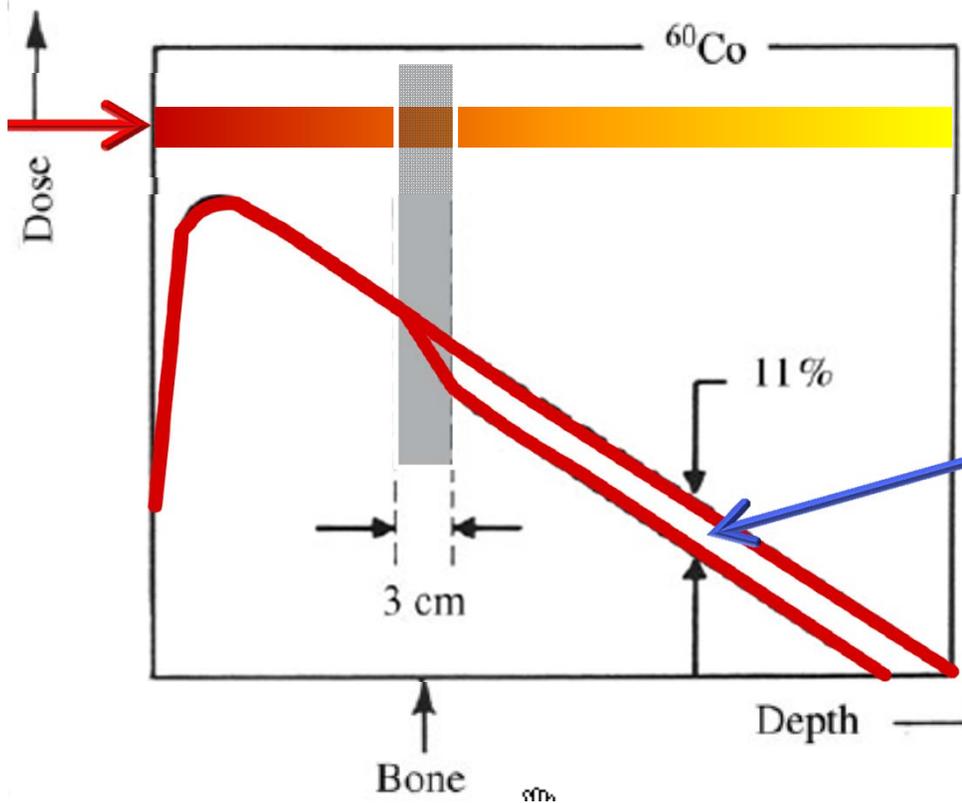
Is there any hope for improvements?

- Dual Energy CT (kV / MVCT)
- Proton activation (PET/SPECT) Tomography
- Prompt Gamma verification
- Proton Radiography
- Proton Tomography

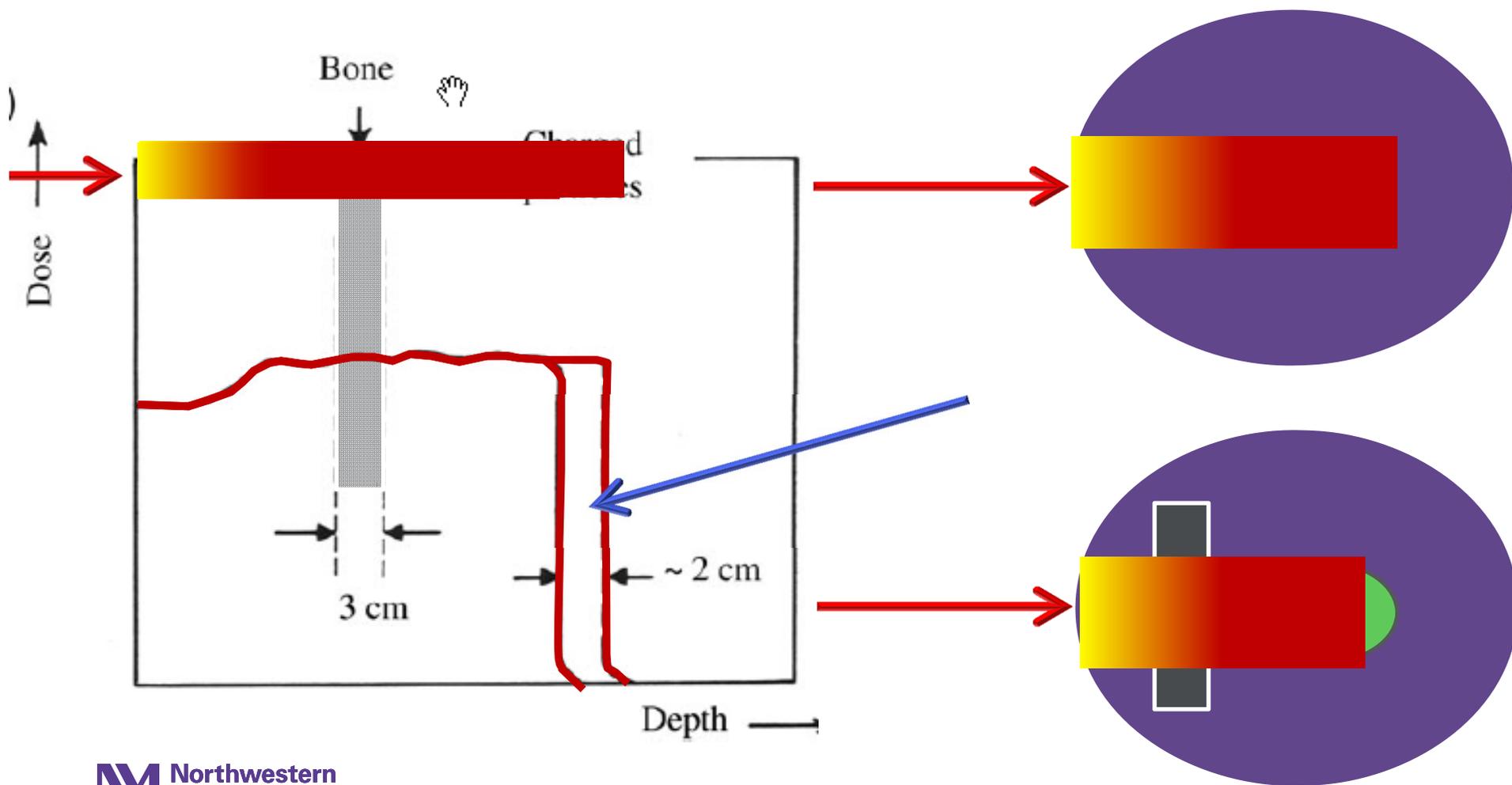
Importance of Image Guidance (IGRT)

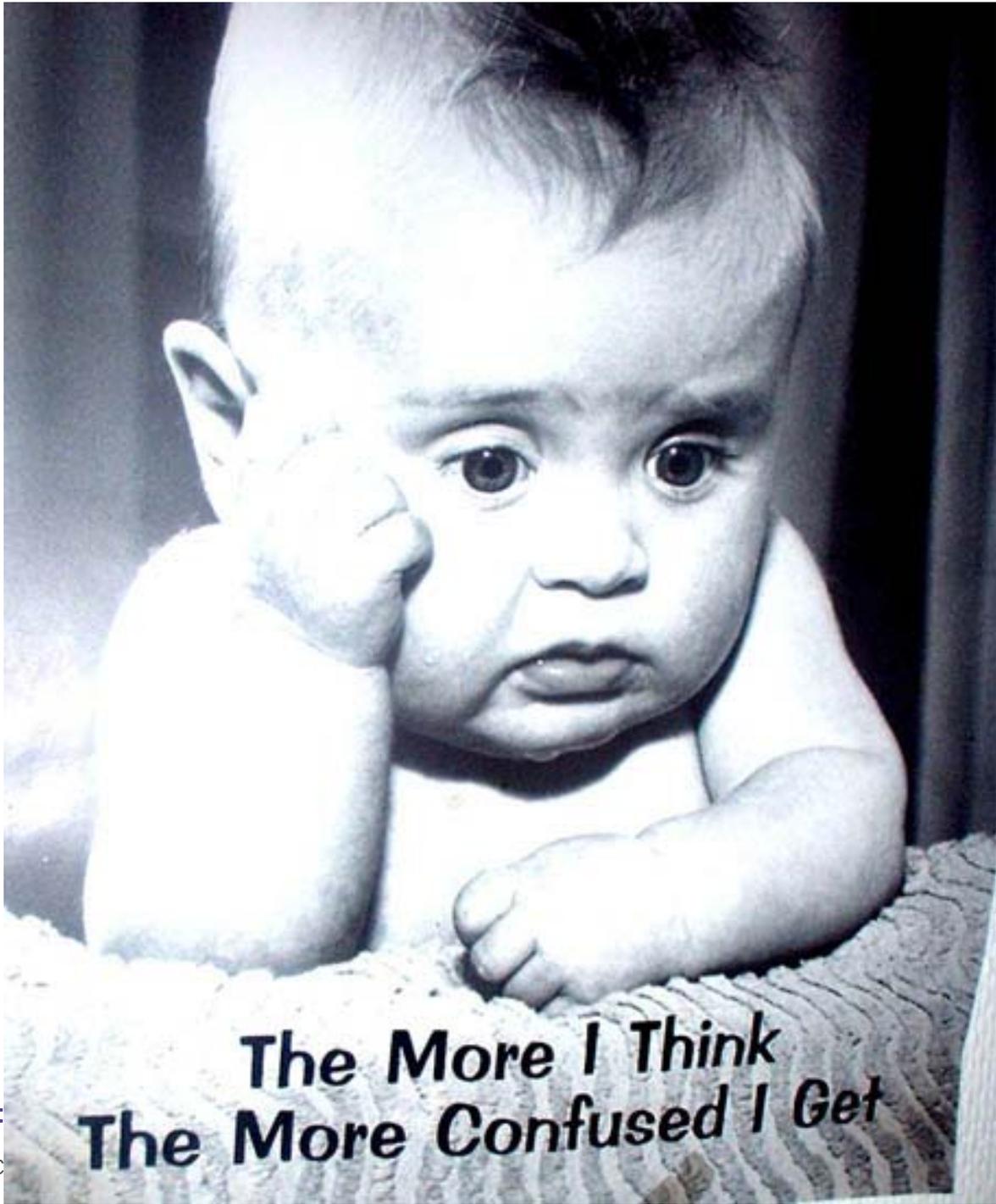
- Image Guidance critical to avoid a geometric miss if the target
- For protons, verification of proton path length equivalence is essential.

Effect of Path Length Variances : Photons



Effect of Path Length Variances Protons

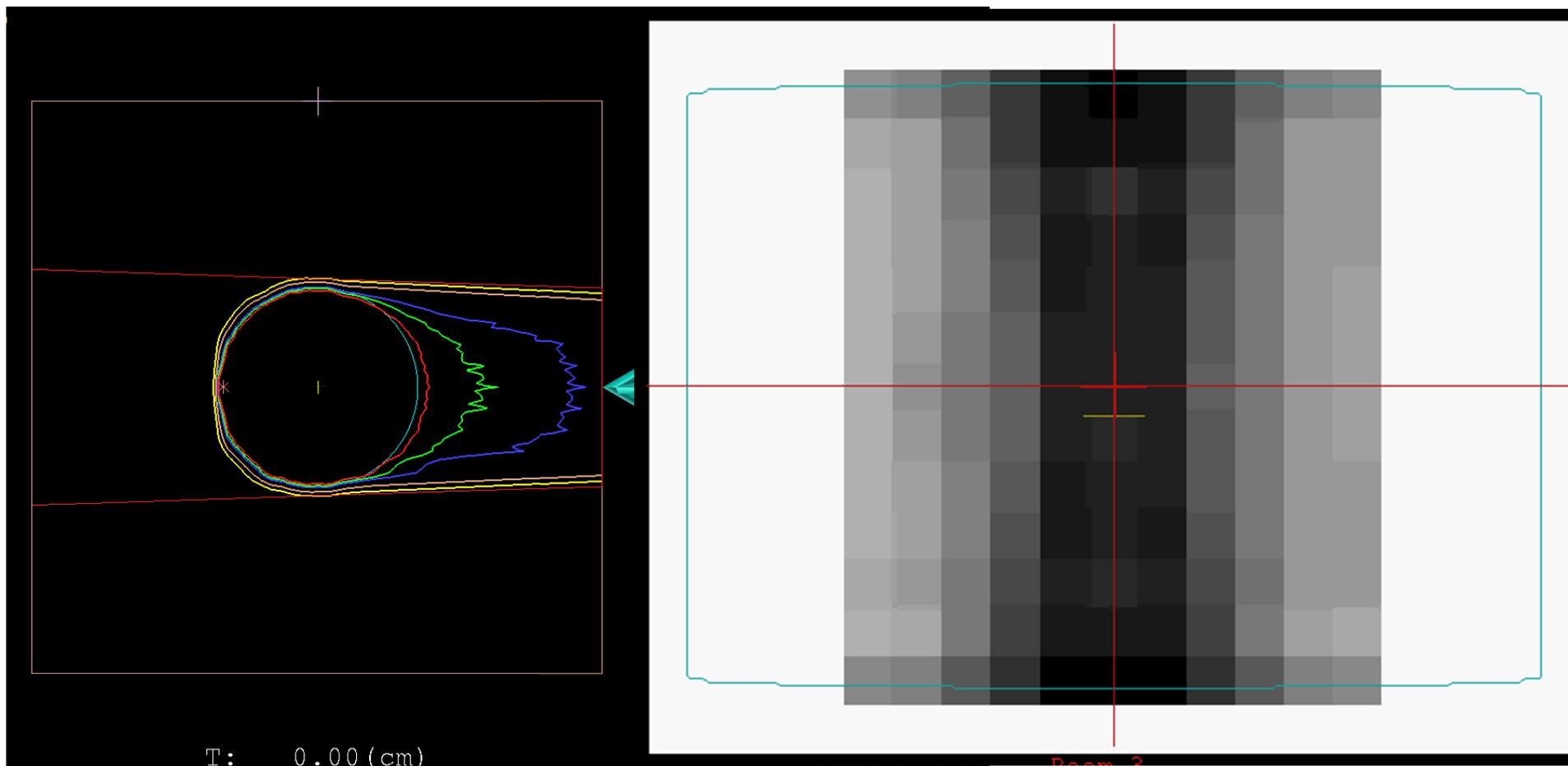




Pencil Beam Delivery / Planning

- Layers of spot patterns delivered over the target volume
- Variable Intensity Control
 - Dose uniformity
 - Simultaneous Intergraded Boost
- Distal AND Proximal conformity
- The ability to perform Multi-Field Optimizations

Spot Intensity for SFUD plan



Spot Positions and Intensity

- Impossible to manually define spot positions and intensities and hope they relate to each other.
- Inverse planning is required
- Objective function is defined
- An iterative process is used to minimize the objective function

Objectives/Constraints								
Beams Energy Layers Spot Selection								
Add... Edit... Delete Load template... Create template... Add MCO function								
Function	Constraint	Dose	ROI	Description	Robust	Weight	Value	
Physical Composite Objective							14.4724	
Min Dose		Beam Set	CTV1	Min Dose 3600 cGy, All beams		90	3.5735	
Min Dose		Plan	PTV1	Min Dose 3650 cGy		9000	2.0146	
Max DVH		Plan	RetinaLt	Max DVH 900 cGy to 10% volume		10	1.7542	
Min Dose		Plan	CTV1	Min Dose 3575 cGy	★	9000	1.2127	
Max Dose		Beam Set	Ring1	Max Dose 3900 cGy, All beams		150	0.8720	
Max Dose		Plan	LensRt	Max Dose 100 cGy		1	0.6733	
Max Dose		Plan	PTV1	Max Dose 3800 cGy		8500	0.6597	
Max Dose		Plan	CochleaRt	Max Dose 900 cGy		1	0.6450	
Max Dose		Plan	OralCavity	Max Dose 3600 cGy		2000	0.5298	
Max Dose		Plan	CTV1	Max Dose 3800 cGy	★	500	0.3893	
Max Dose		Plan	HippoHeadLt	Max Dose 600 cGy		10	0.3891	
Max DVH		Plan	TemporalLobeLt	Max DVH 1000 cGy to 5% volume		1	0.3284	

Aperture/Compensator vs. PBS

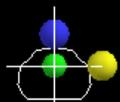
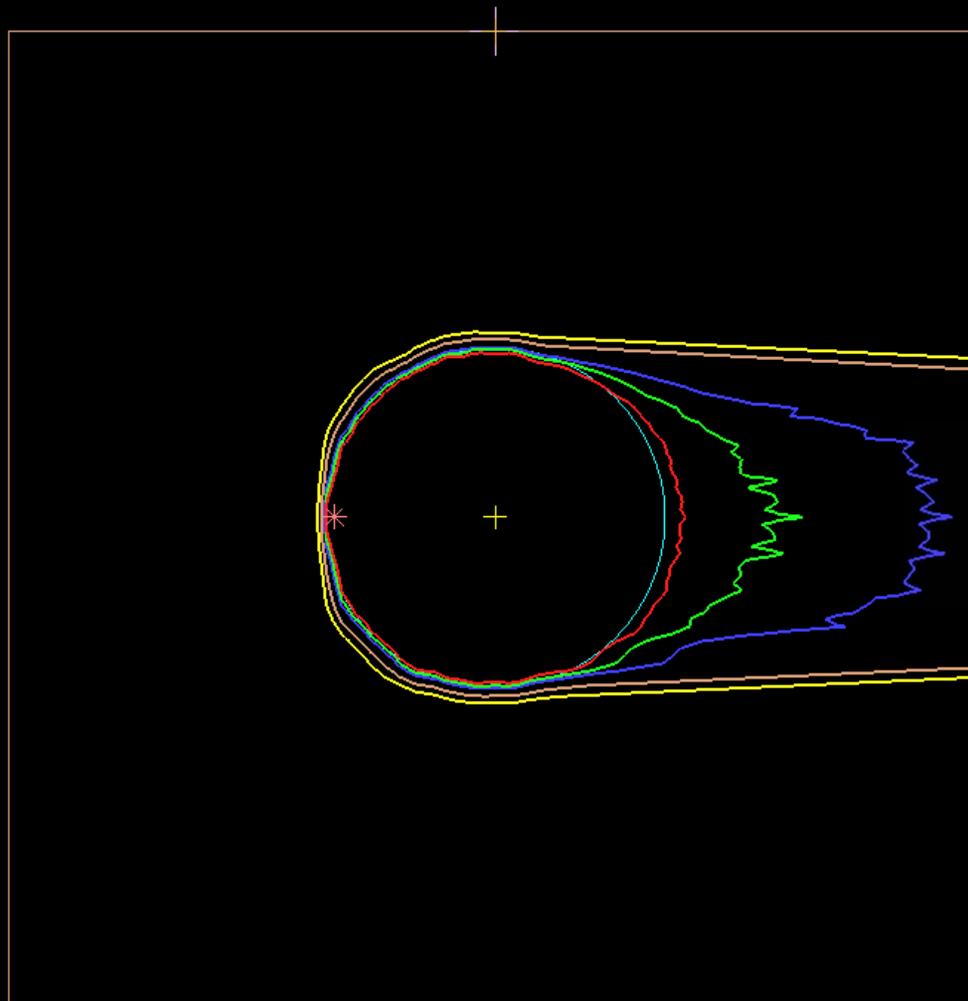
Norm:Dose(1000.0 cGy = 100%)

ref pt

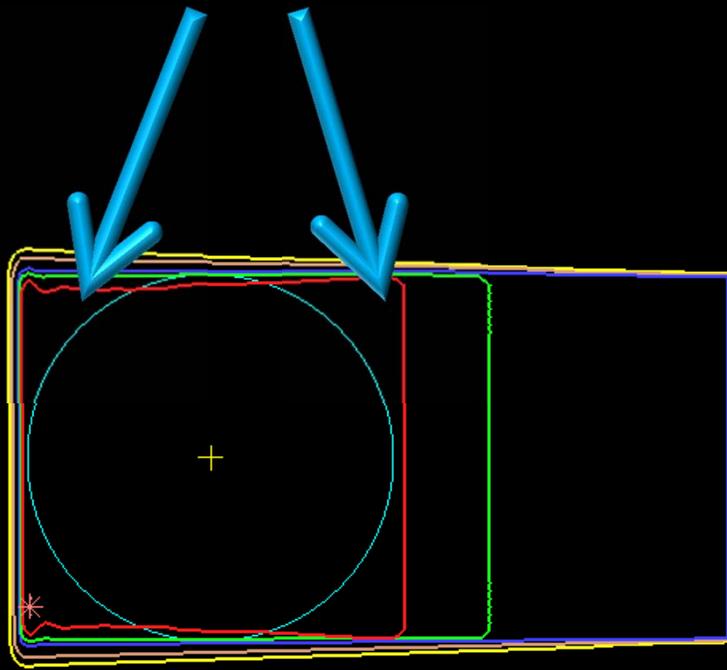
Isovalues(%)

- 100.0
- 95.0
- 90.0
- 70.0
- 50.0

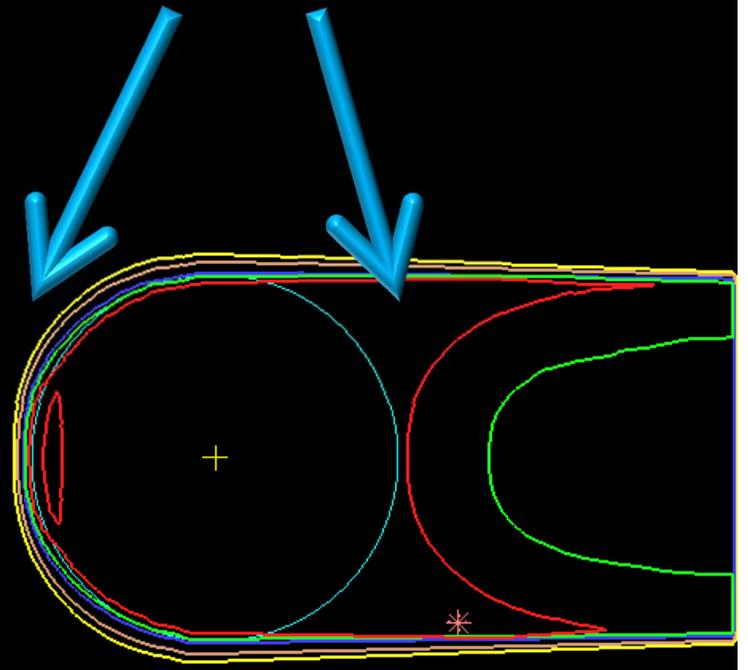
de
global
local



Advantage of a Compensator

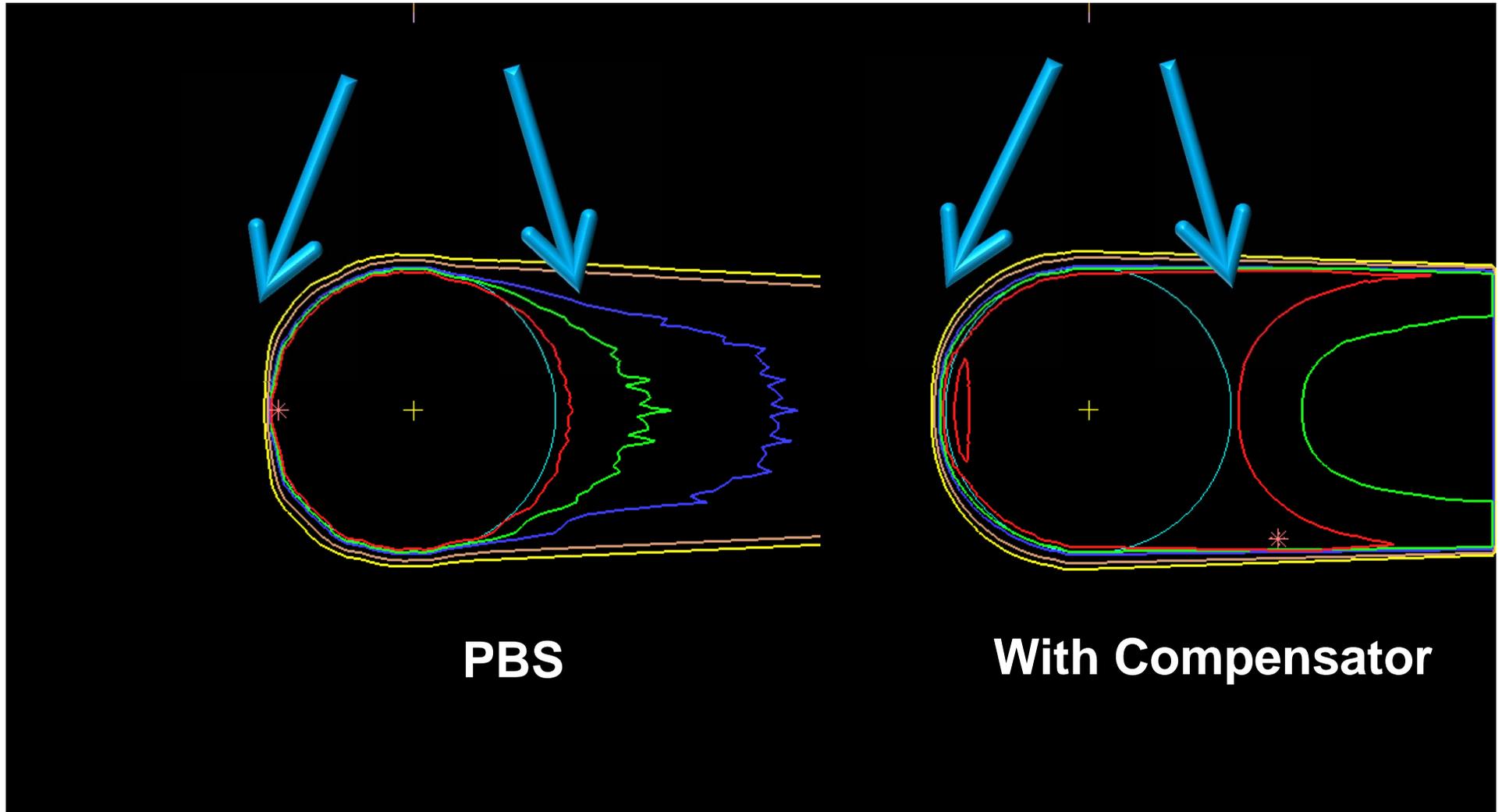


No Compensator



With Compensator

Advantage of a Compensator



PBS Planning is lacking critical tools that are easily available in Aperture /Compensator delivery:

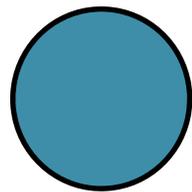
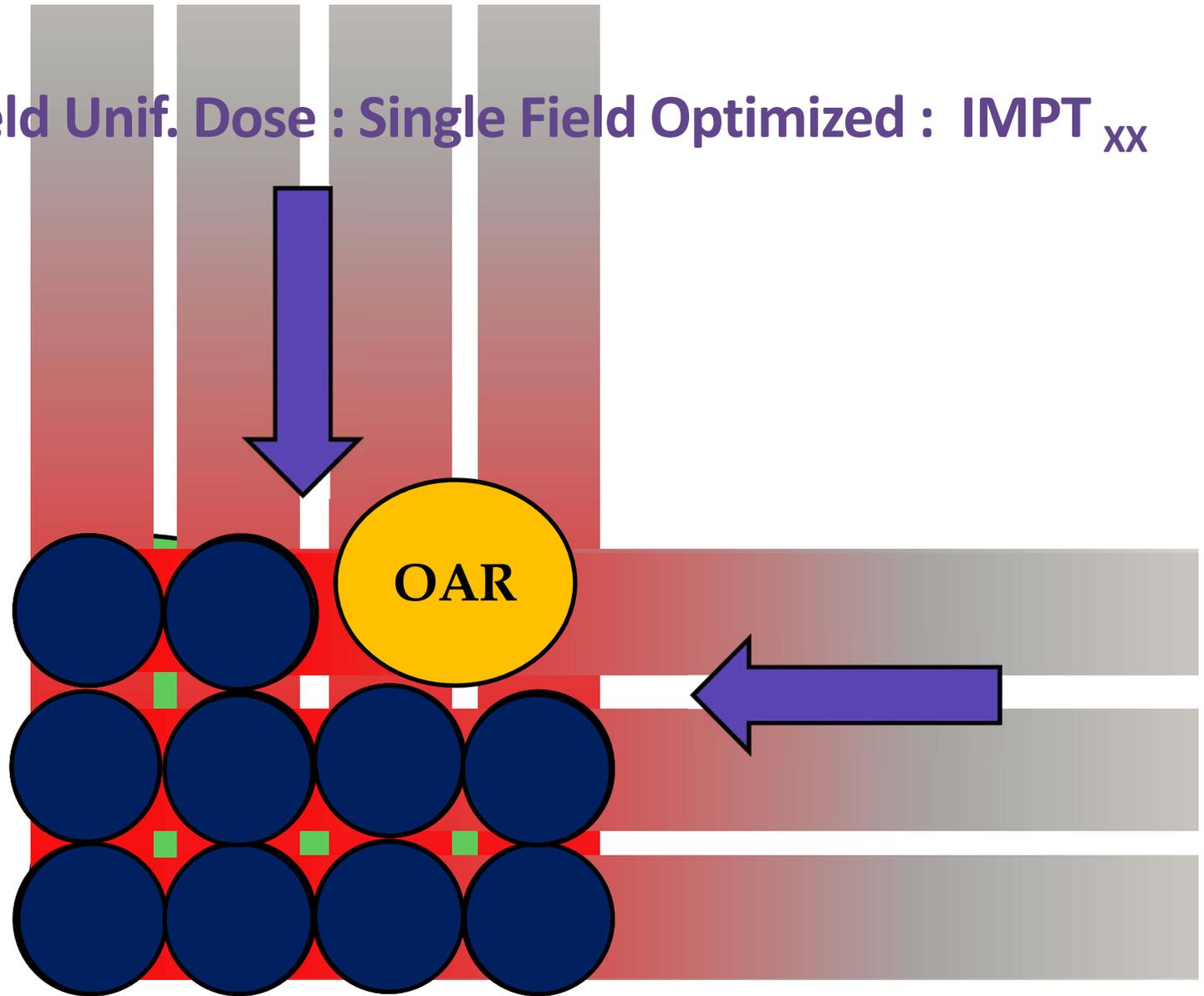
How do we account for?

- Smearing

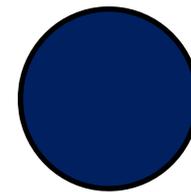
- Set-up errors
- Internal motion and inconsistent anatomy
- No physical device (compensator)

- Range Uncertainties

Single Field Unif. Dose : Single Field Optimized : IMPT_{xx}

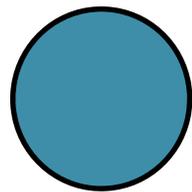
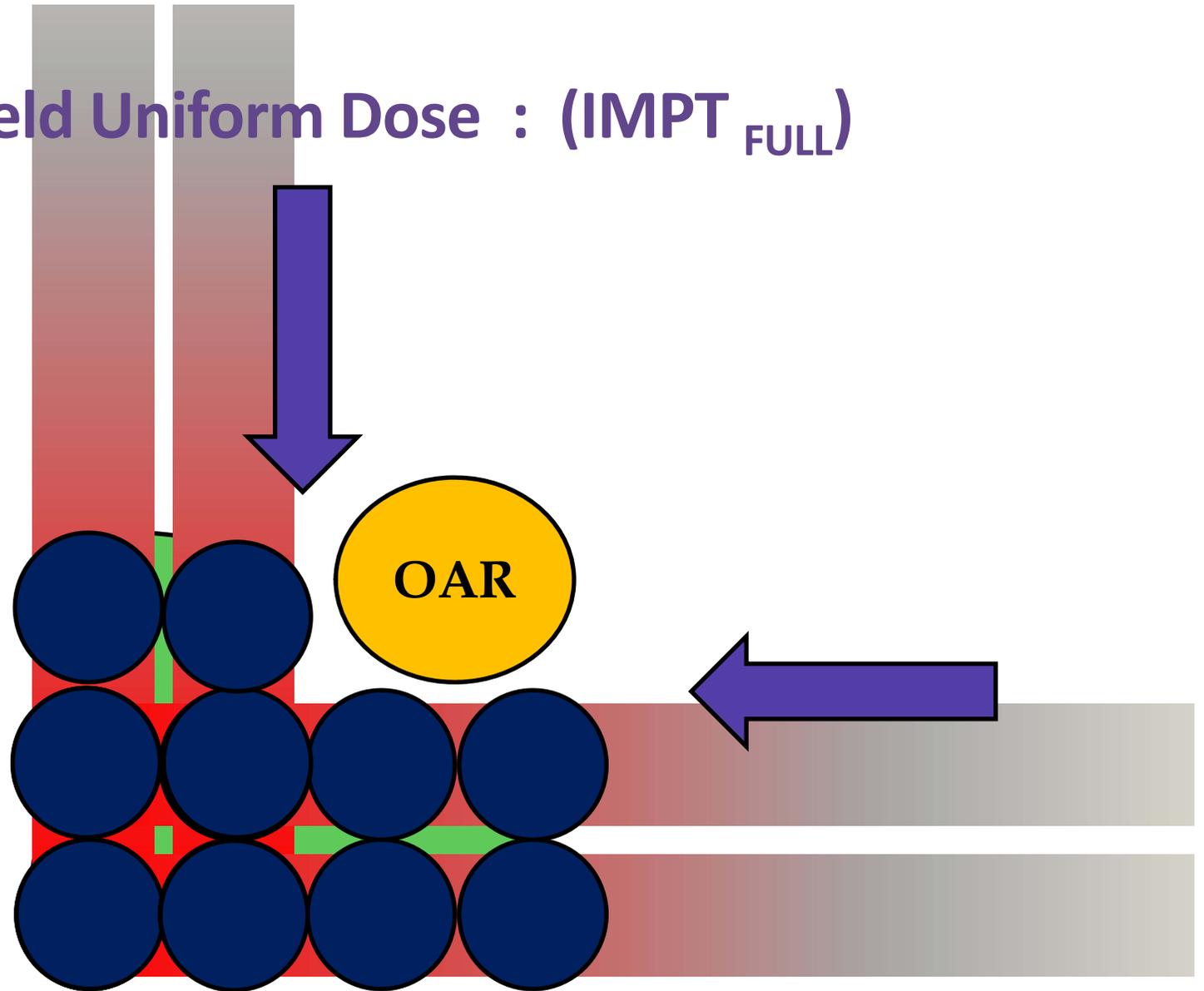


< 100% of Dose

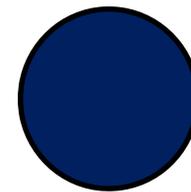


100% of Dose

Multi-Field Uniform Dose : (IMPT_{FULL})

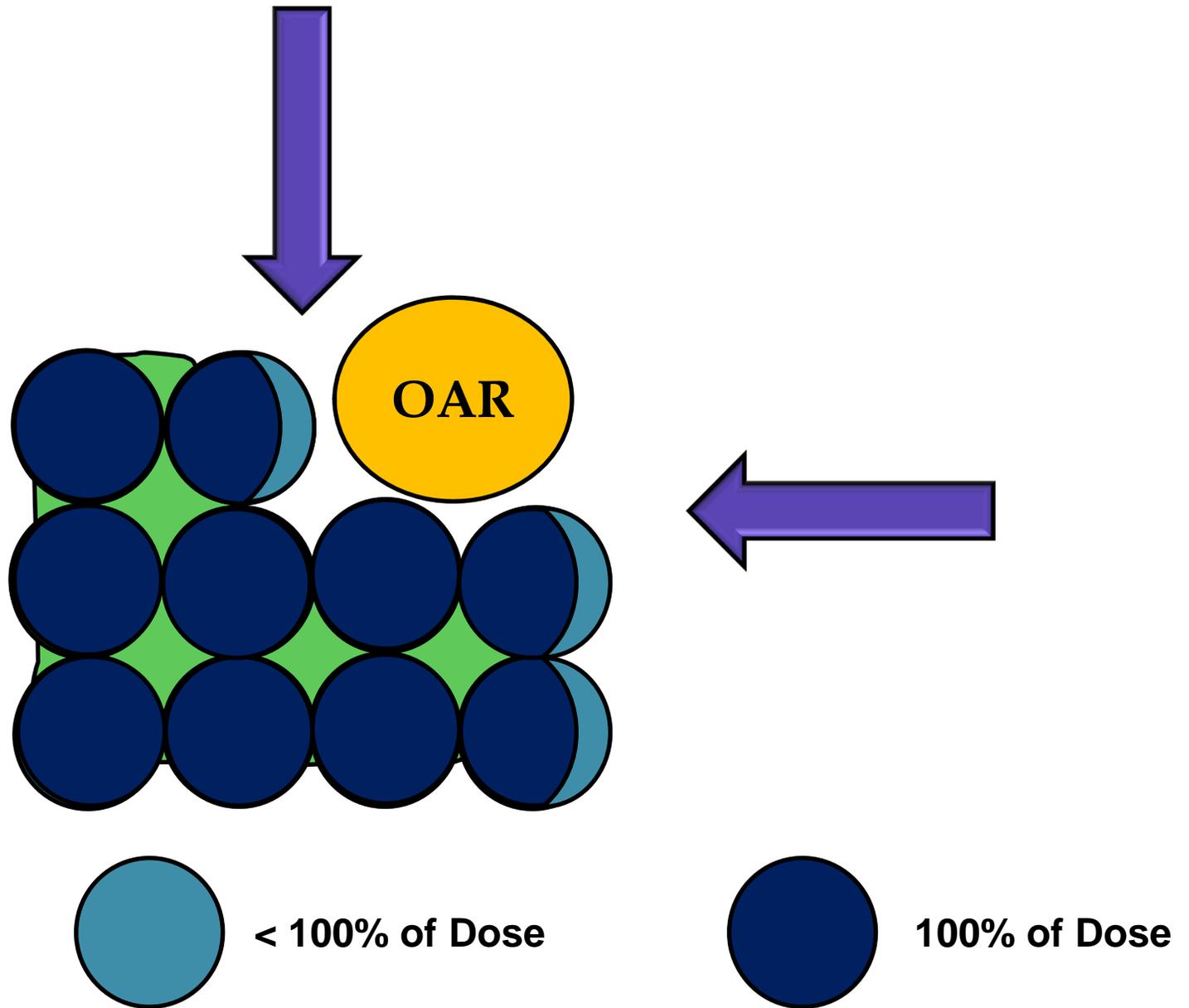


< 100% of Dose

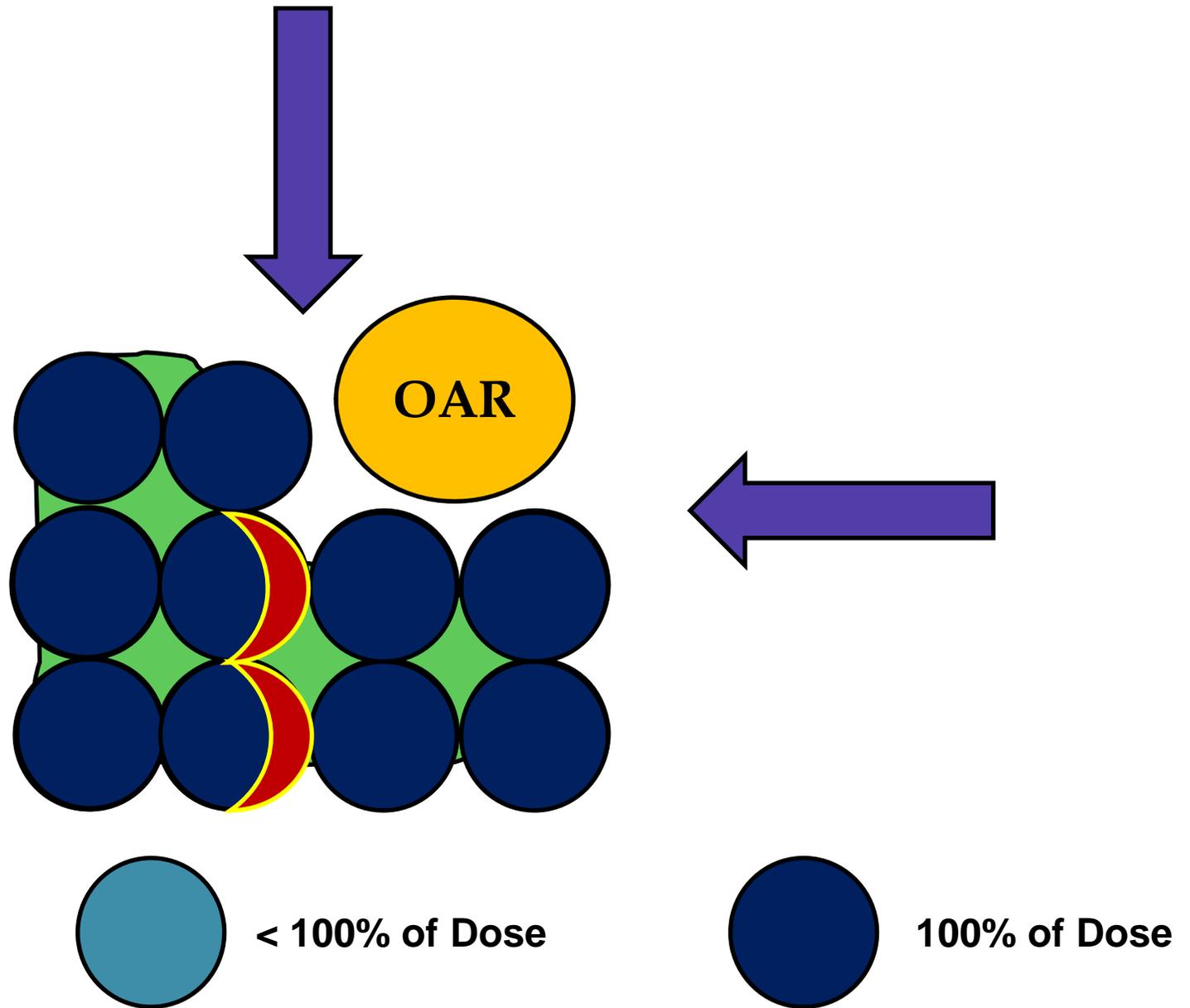


100% of Dose

SFUD with range error



Multi Field Optimized with a range error



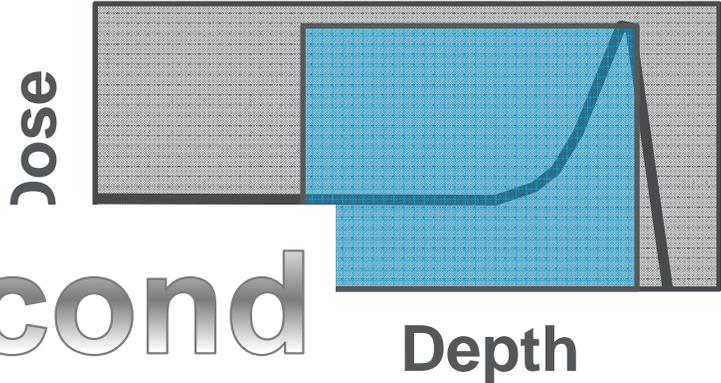


Delivery timing of your PBS delivery system and method need to be understood

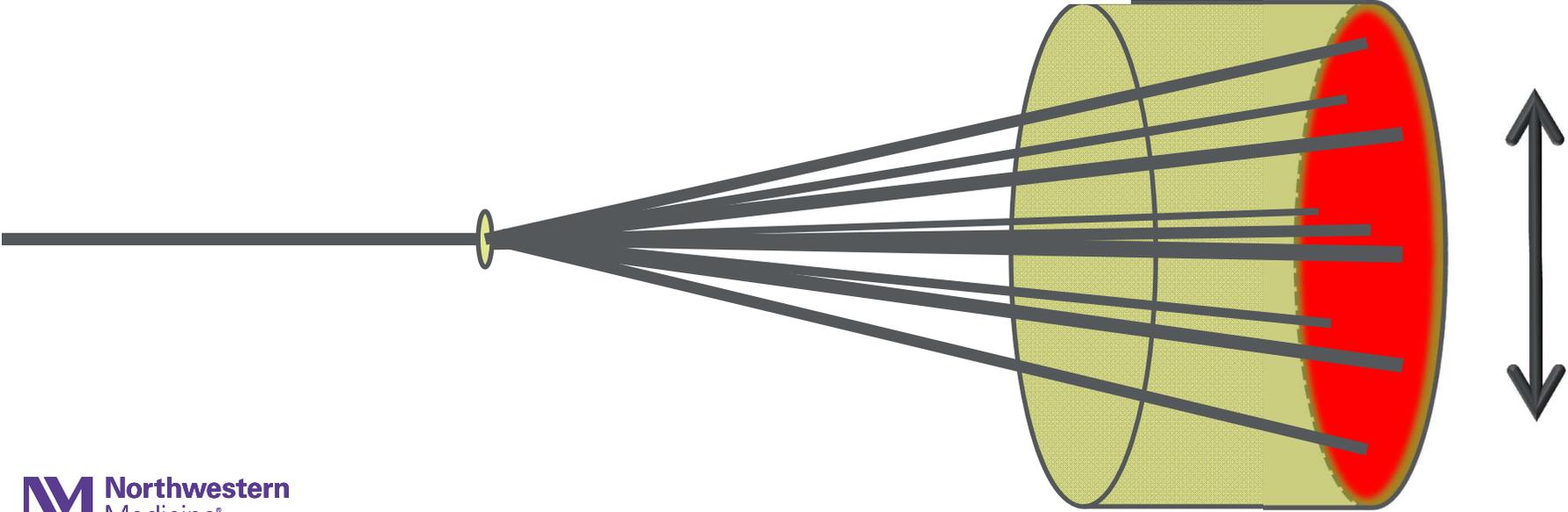
- PBS Beam delivery method
 - Delivery speed perpendicular to incident beam
 - Delivery speed parallel to incident beam



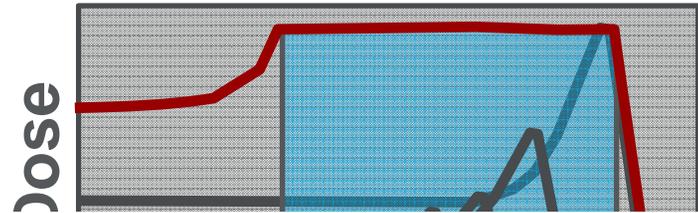
Delivery perpendicular to incident beam



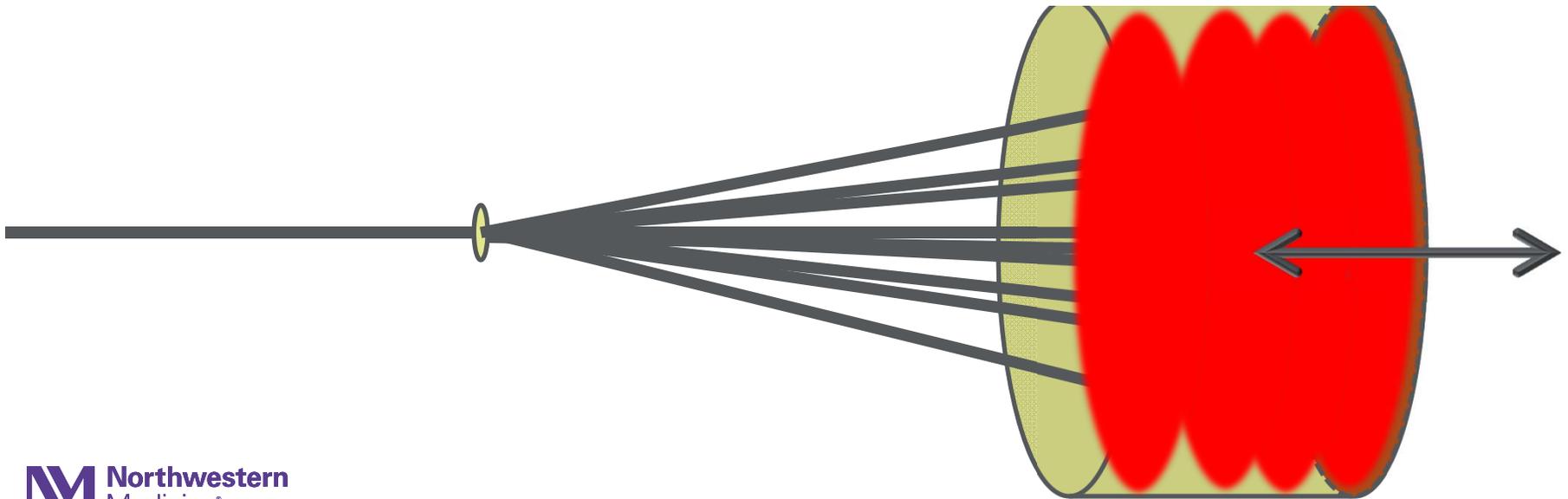
~ 1 second



Delivery parallel to incident beam



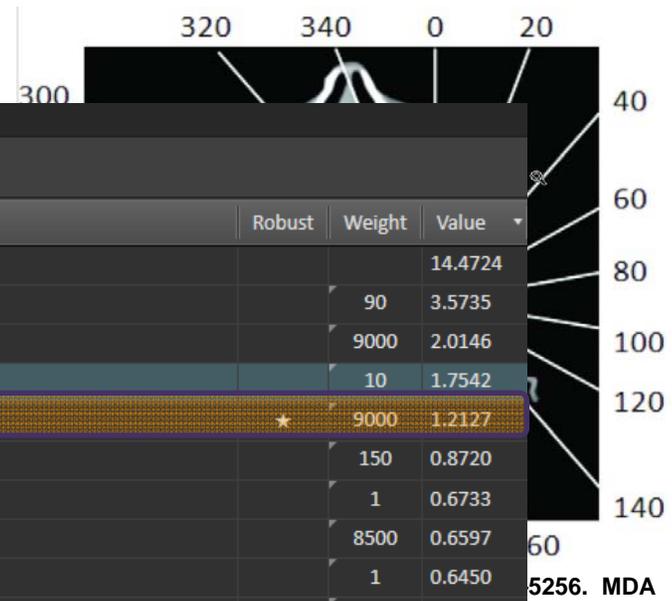
Not Quick ~ 2-5 second



With PBS we need to consider Robustness:

- Quantify the sensitivity of the PBS plan to :
 - Set-up errors
 - Internal Motion
 - Range Uncertainties

- Two methods to do this:
 - Prospectively : Robustness Optimization
 - Retrospectively : Robustness Evaluation



Objectives/Constraints								
Beams Energy Layers Spot Selection								
Add... Edit... Delete Load template... Create template... Add MCO function								
Function	Constraint	Dose	ROI	Description	Robust	Weight	Value	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physical Composite Objective							14.4724	
Min Dose		Beam Set	CTV1	Min Dose 3600 cGy, All beams		90	3.5735	
Min Dose		Plan	PTV1	Min Dose 3650 cGy		9000	2.0146	
Max DVH		Plan	RetinalLt	Max DVH 900 cGy to 10% volume		10	1.7542	
Min Dose		Plan	CTV1	Min Dose 3575 cGy	*	9000	1.2127	
Max Dose		Beam Set	Ring1	Max Dose 3900 cGy, All beams		150	0.8720	
Max Dose		Plan	LensRt	Max Dose 100 cGy		1	0.6733	
Max Dose		Plan	PTV1	Max Dose 3800 cGy		8500	0.6597	
Max Dose		Plan	CochleaRt	Max Dose 900 cGy		1	0.6450	
Max Dose		Plan	OralCavity	Max Dose 3600 cGy		2000	0.5298	
Max Dose		Plan	CTV1	Max Dose 3800 cGy	*	500	0.3893	
Max Dose		Plan	HippoHeadLt	Max Dose 600 cGy		10	0.3891	
Max DVH		Plan	TemporalLobeLt	Max DVH 1000 cGy to 5% volume		1	0.3284	
Max DVH		Plan	Ring1	Max DVH 3000 cGy to 10% volume		1000	0.2820	
Max Dose		Plan	CochleaLt	Max Dose 2300 cGy		1	0.2515	
Max Dose		Plan	HippoTailRt	Max Dose 600 cGy		10	0.2242	
Max DVH		Plan	ParotidLt	Max DVH 2000 cGy to 80% volume		200	0.2086	
Max DVH		Plan	OralCavity	Max DVH 600 cGy to 70% volume		70	0.1790	
Uniform Dose		Plan	CTV1	Uniform Dose 3650 cGy		100	0.1654	
Max DVH		Plan	Brain	Max DVH 500 cGy to 10% volume		5	0.0712	
Max DVH		Plan	ParotidRt	Max DVH 400 cGy to 50% volume		10	0.0382	
Max DVH		Plan	TemporalLobeRt1	Max DVH 1000 cGy to 5% volume		1	0.0064	
Max DVH		Plan	OralCavity	Max DVH 2900 cGy to 30% volume		1	0.0023	
Max Dose		Plan	Brain	Max Dose 3600 cGy		50	0.0013	
Max Dose		Plan	OpticNerveLt	Max Dose 3600 cGy		1	7.1147E-4	
Max DVH		Plan	OralCavity	Max DVH 3600 cGy to 15% volume		4	9.9509E-5	
Max Dose		Plan	Brainstem	Max Dose 3600 cGy		1	2.4875E-5	
Max Dose		Plan	LensLt	Max Dose 175 cGy		0	0.0000	
Max Dose		Plan	OpticNerveRt	Max Dose 3600 cGy		1	0.0000	
Max DVH		Plan	RetinaRt	Max DVH 300 cGy to 10% volume		0	0.0000	
Max DVH		Plan	Brainstem	Max DVH 1800 cGy to 40% volume		1	0.0000	

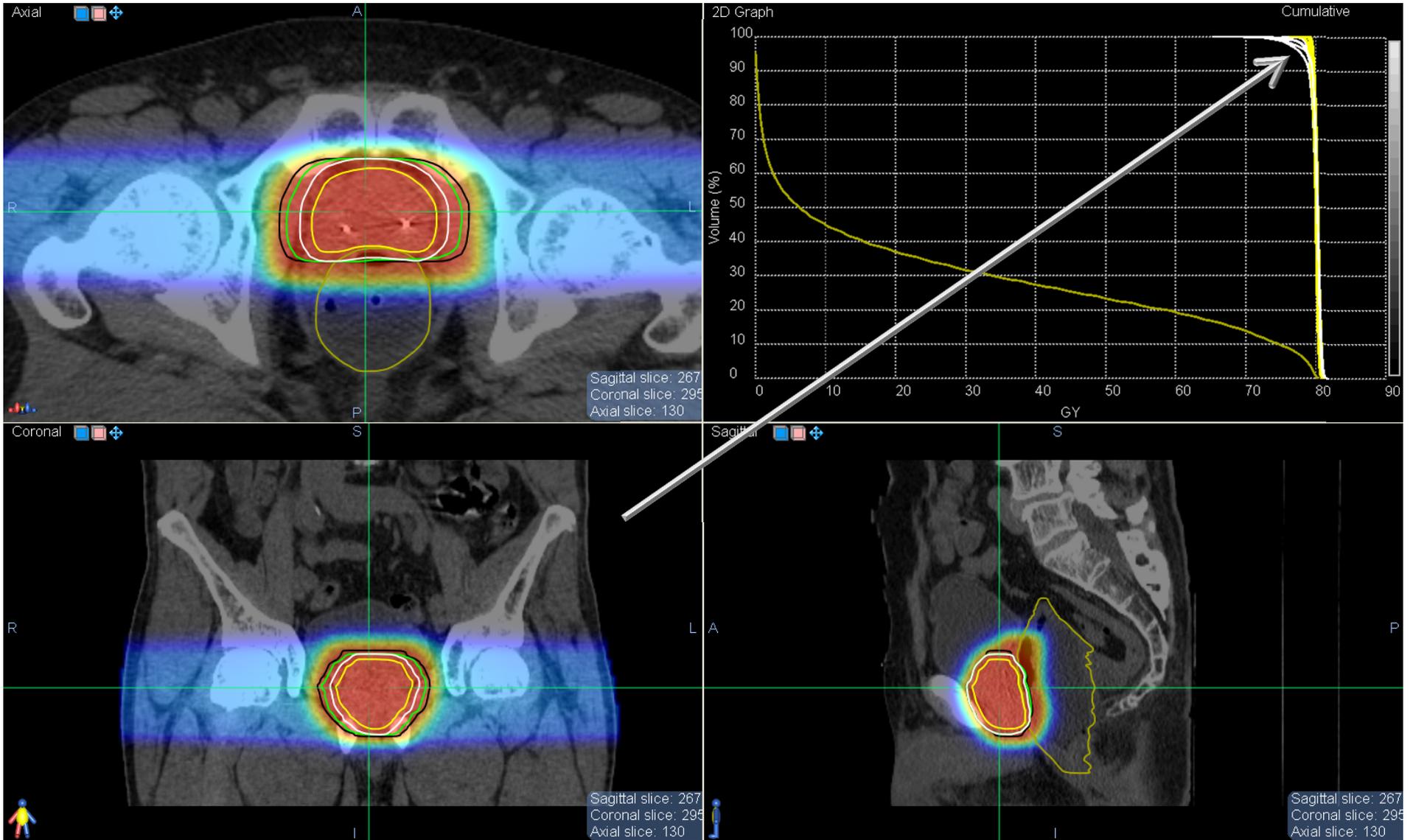
- Evalu
- E
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- 4-D F
- N

Robustness Analysis

Process of evaluating several potential scenarios to understand potential “worse case” results

- Translate and/or rotate individual fields and recalculate
 - Mimic Set-up errors
- Re-assign shifted HU conversion curves and recalculate
 - Mimic HU conversion errors
- Move Target structures and recalculate
 - Mimic Internal Motion

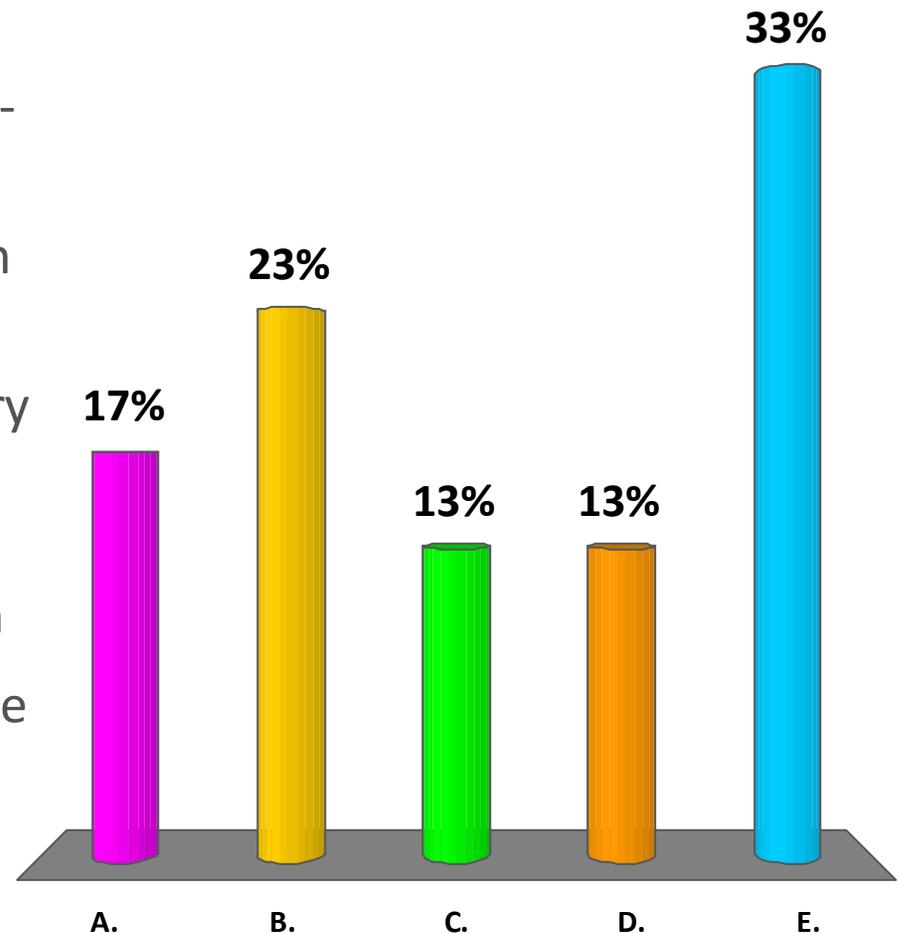
Agonistic PDR Plan: 3150 minnir PDR per hour



Question 3

Which statements true about robustness evaluations?

- A. Robustness evaluation quantify potential differences in dose distributions of PBS plans caused by set-up and/or range uncertainties.
- B. Robustness evaluation compare proton and photon plans
- C. Robustness evaluation are not necessary for Multi Field Optimized proton plans
- D. Robustness evaluation should be different to the nominal treatment plan
- E. Robustness evaluation will speed up the planning process



Question 3

Which statements are true about robustness evaluations?

- a) Robustness evaluation quantity potential differences in dose distributions of PBS plans caused by set-up and/or range uncertainties.
- b) Robustness evaluation compare proton and photon plans
- c) Robustness evaluation are not necessary for Multi Field Optimized proton plans
- d) Robustness evaluation should be different to the nominal treatment plan
- e) Robustness evaluation will speed up the planning process

Correct Answer (a) : Robustness evaluation quantity the differences in dose distributions of PBS plans caused by set-up and/or range uncertainties.

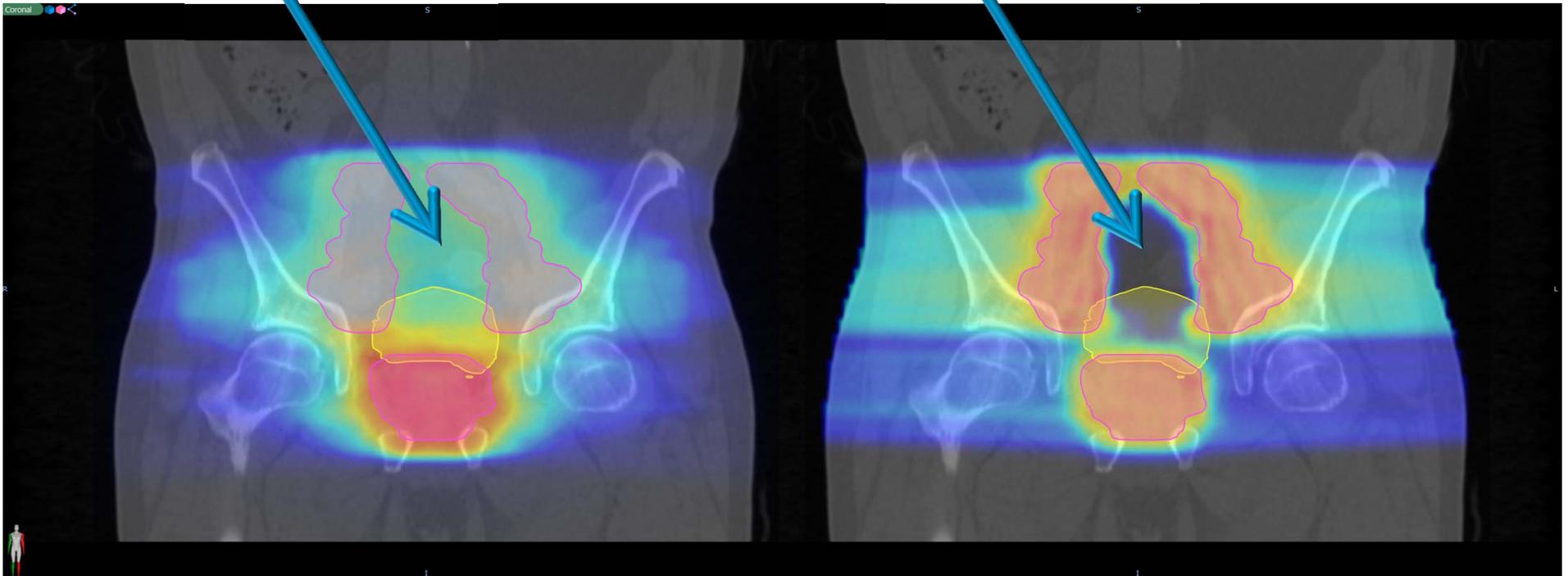
References : Pugh TJ, et al. : Med Dosim. 2013 Autumn;38(3):344-50.

A few cases where PBS was beneficial:

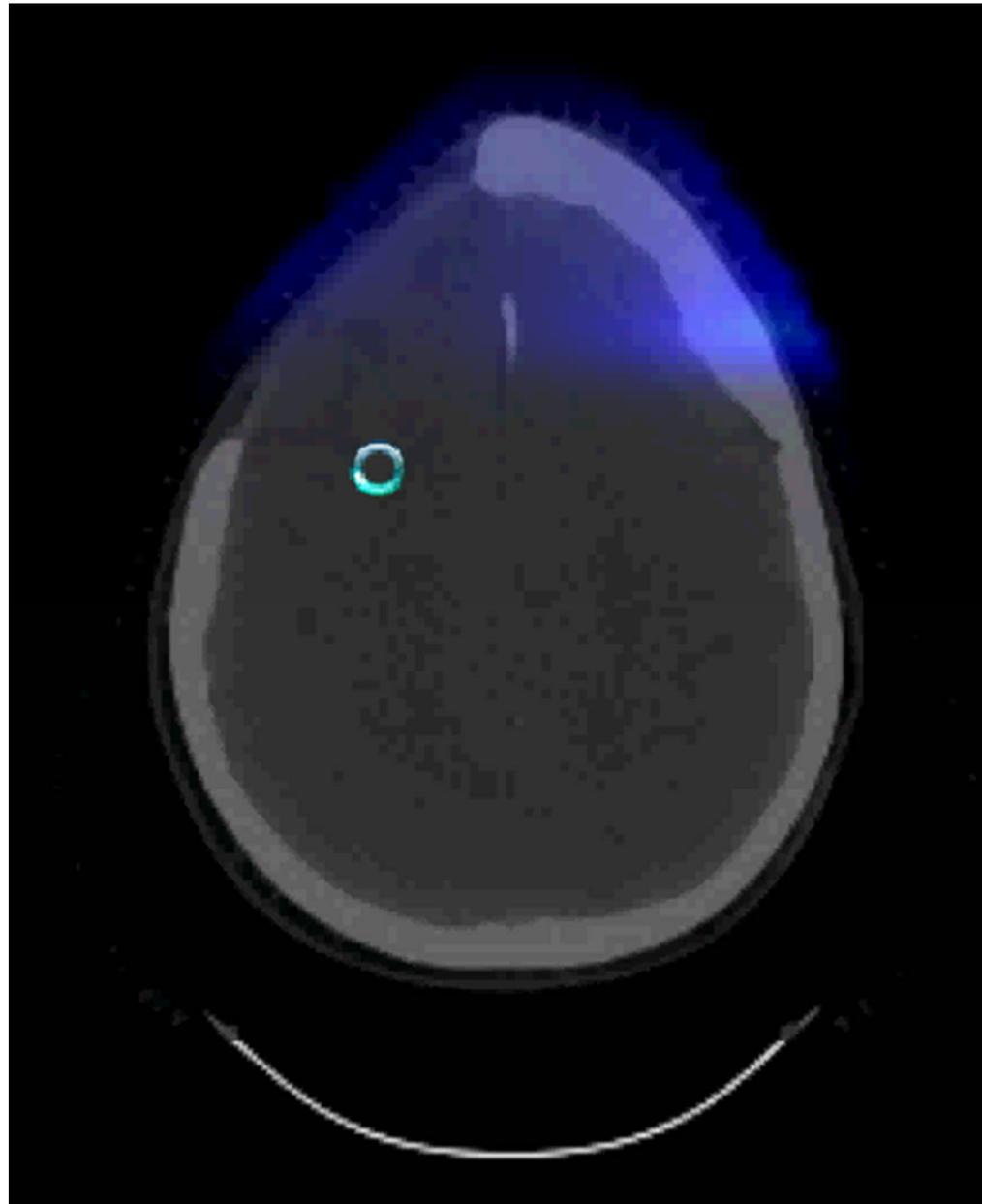
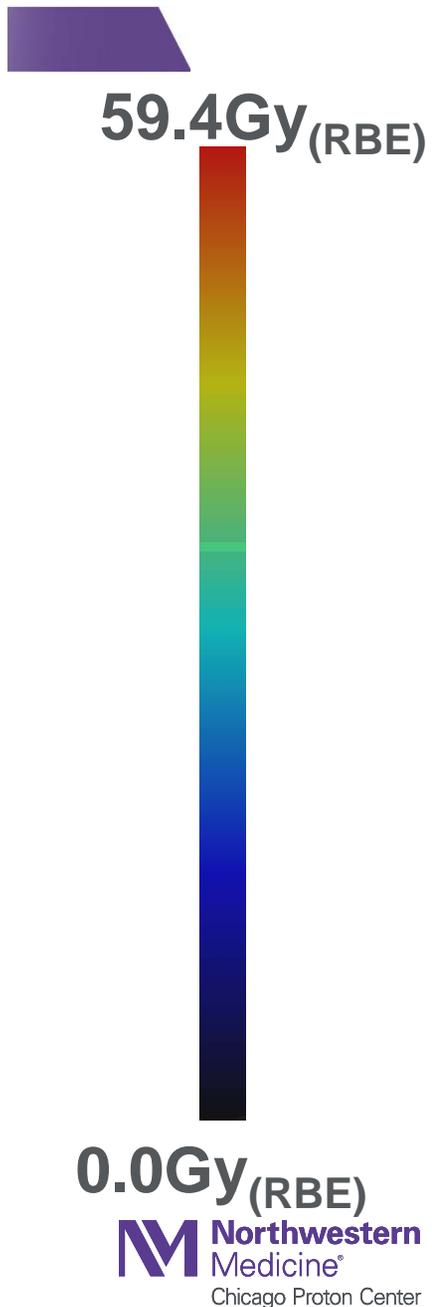
Male Whole Pelvis

Photons

Protons



Retreat Meningioma



40 y/o Male
History of Brain
irradiation at
age 2 for acute
lymphoblastic
leukemia.

50.4Gy_(RBE)

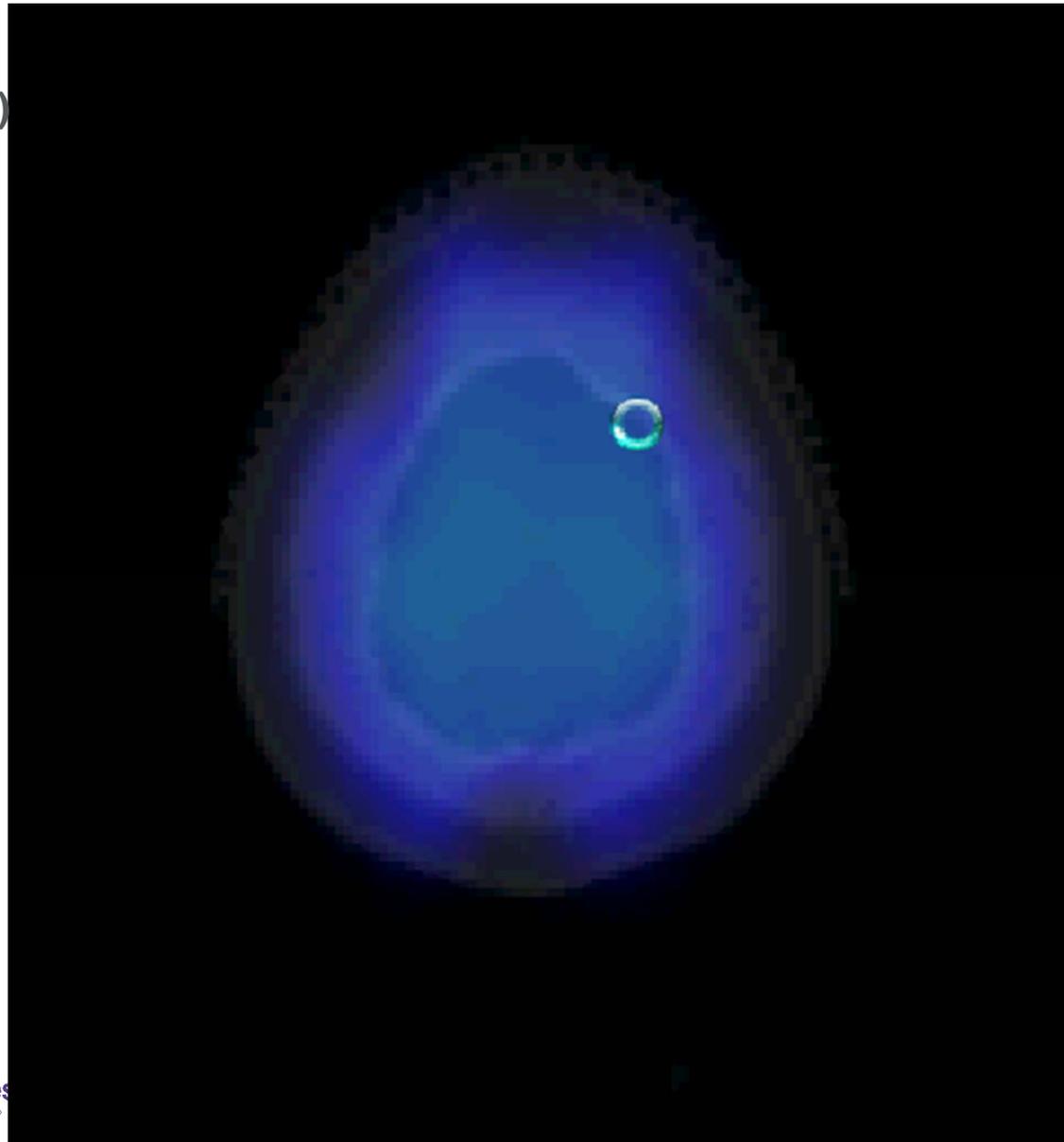
Boost to
59.4Gy_(RBE)

Pineal Blastoma

54.0Gy_(RBE)



0.0Gy_(RBE)

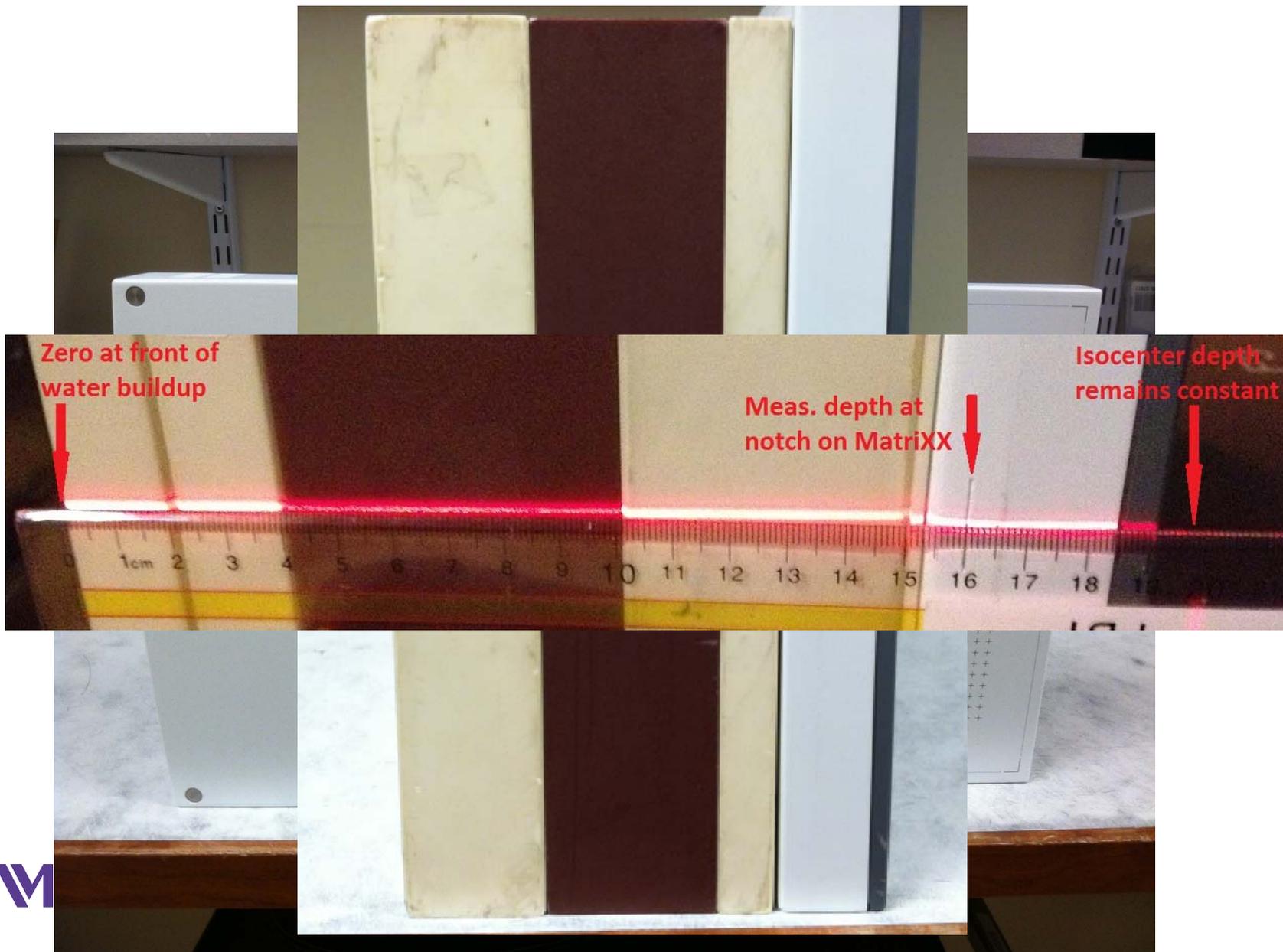


**13 y/o Male
Germinoma :
Pineal Region**

PBS Patient Specific QA

- Secondary independent measurement of planned fluence onto a uniform phantom
 - With protons :
 - 3-dimensional dose distribution
 - A profiles at one depth does not predict the profile at other depths
- Profile Measurements : Must obtained at various depths
 - How many is enough?
 - Initially obtained at least 4 depths
 - Distal portion of CTV
 - Center portion of CTV
 - Proximal portion of CTV
 - Depth = 10cm or less : Plateau region

Patient Specific PBS QA S/U



PBS Patient Specific QA Process



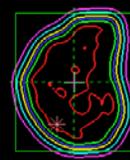
Obtain expected planned dose planes



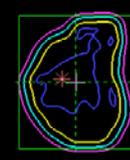
Mid



Distal

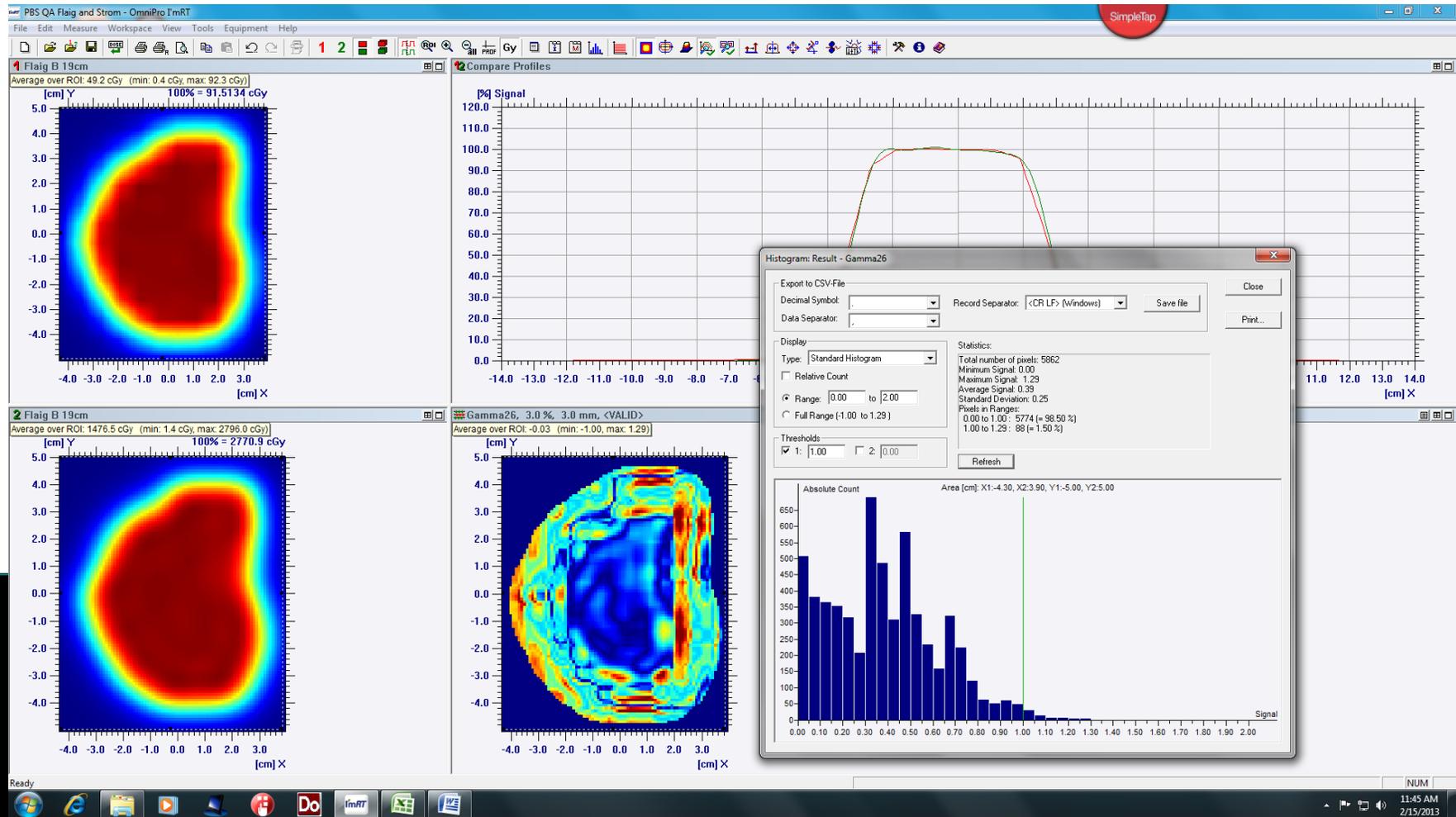


Proximal



Plateau

Profile evaluation of calculated vs. measured profiles



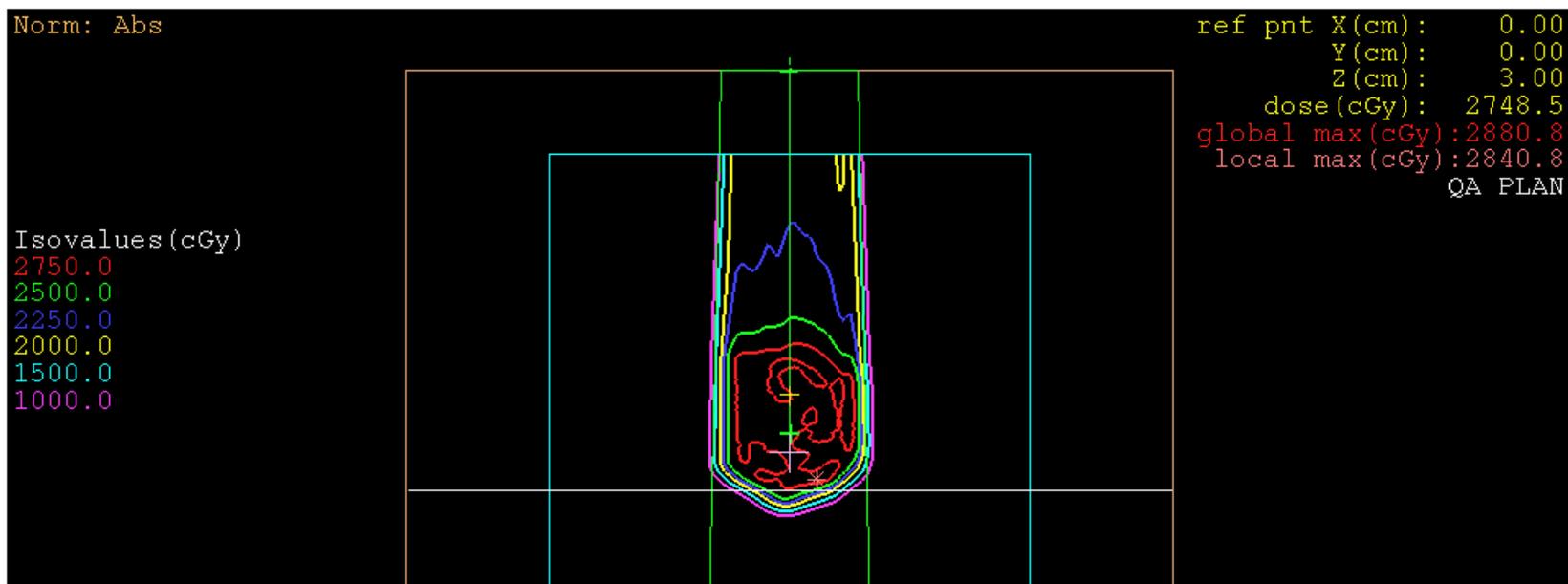
Mid

Distal

Proximal

Plateau

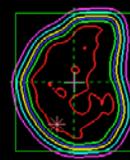
Obtain expected planned dose planes



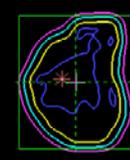
Mid



Distal

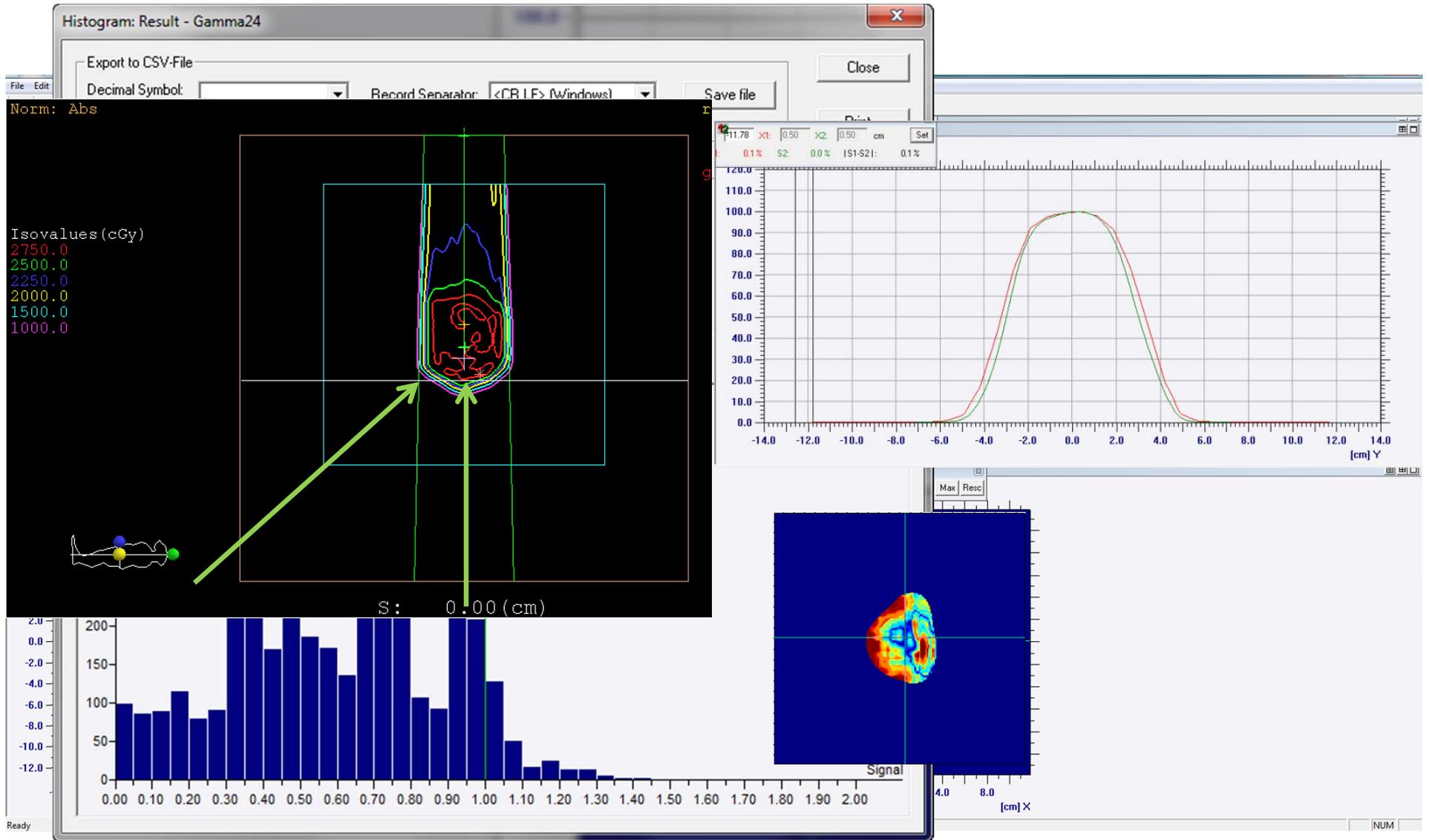


Proximal

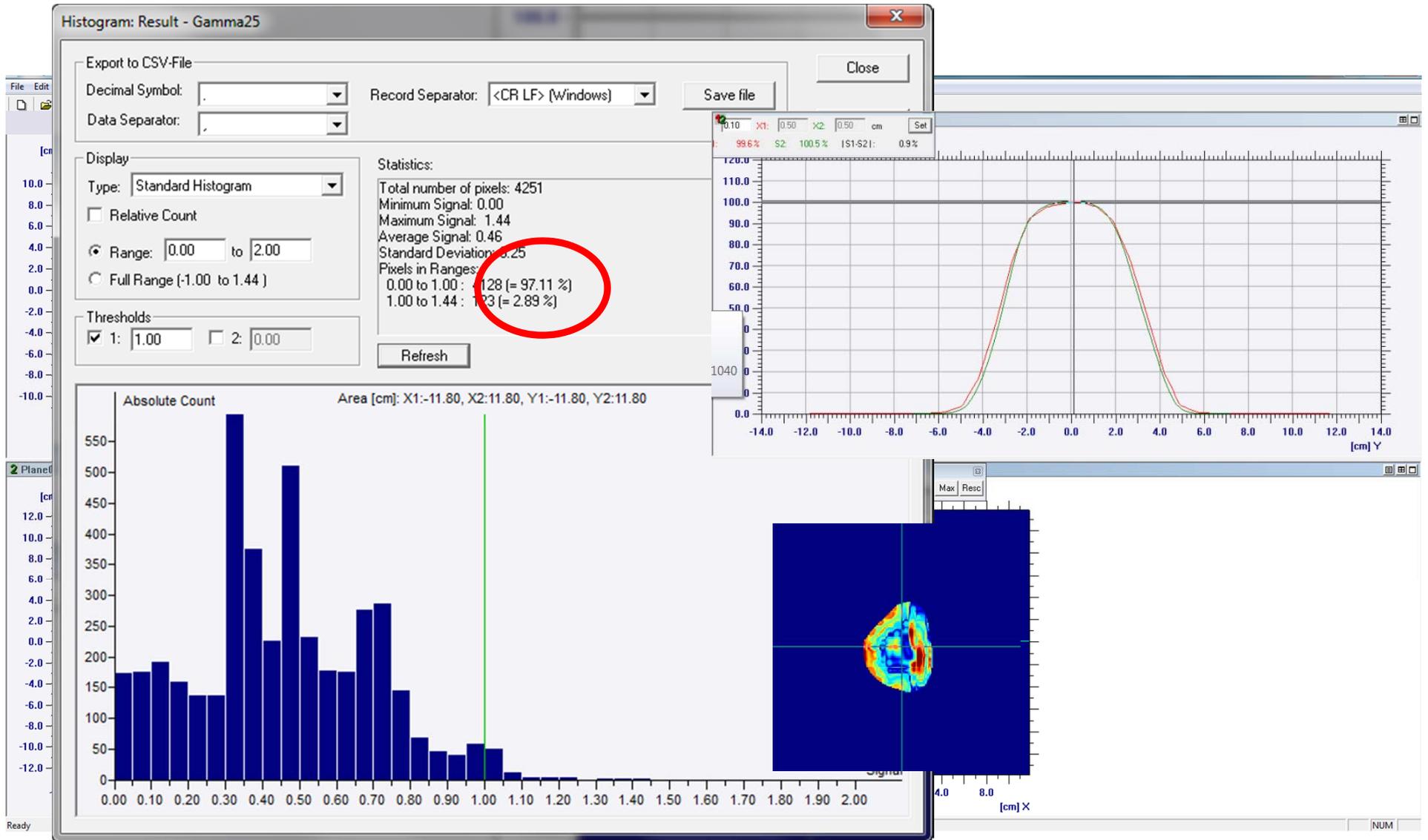


Plateau

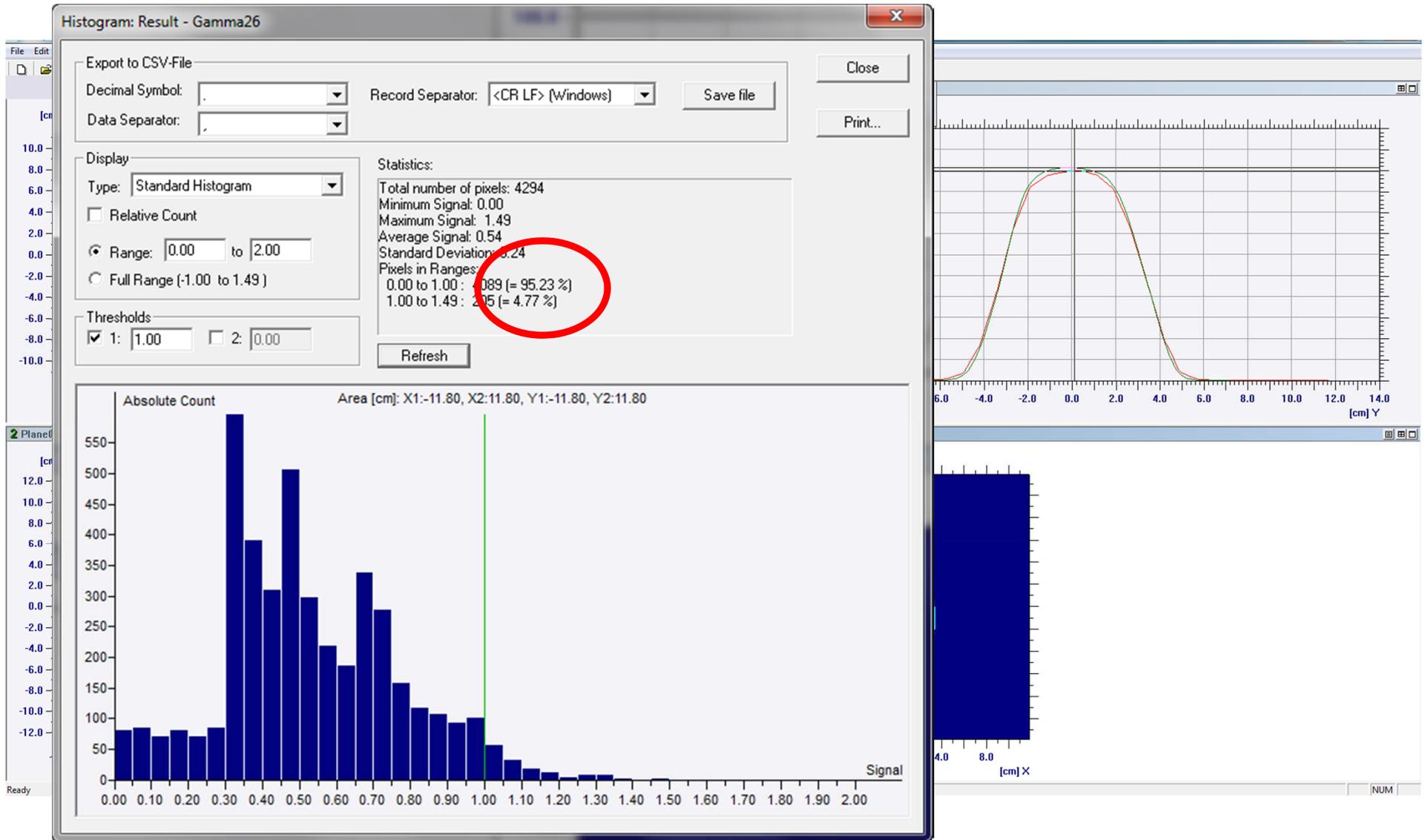
Distal Edge Evaluation



Distal Edge Evaluation



Distal Edge Evaluation





**In Conclusion : Is it too hard??
Should we give up??**

No way !!

**The true benefit of proton is in the difference
in integral dose. Make the best of this !!**

Thank You for listening!

