

# *Dose Assessment Considerations*

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## ***SAM THERAPY EDUCATIONAL COURSE: Task Group 203; Implanted Cardiac Devices***

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Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine



**Penn Medicine**



# Contents of the presentation

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ CIED sensitivities on radiation dose and radiation modality (Literature coverage)
- ◆ Dose assessment
  - Where and how to estimate dose to the CIED
  - Out-of-field doses and CIEDs
  - Calculation and measurement of dose on the CIED
    - Issues to be aware of
    - Proposed methods and limitations
- ◆ Short presentation of data from clinical examples
- ◆ List of recommendations
- ◆ Conclusions

## Management of radiotherapy patients with implanted cardiac pacemakers and defibrillators: A Report of the AAPM TG-203<sup>†</sup>

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Managing radiotherapy patients with implanted cardiac devices (implantable cardiac pacemakers and implantable cardioverter-defibrillators) has been a great practical and procedural challenge in radiation oncology practice. Since the publication of the AAPM TG-34 in 1994, large bodies of literature and case reports have been published about different kinds of radiation effects on modern technology implantable cardiac devices and patient management before, during, and after radiotherapy. This task group report provides the framework that analyzes the potential failure modes of these devices and lays out the methodology for patient management in a comprehensive and concise way, in every step of the entire radiotherapy process. © 2019 American Association of Physicists in Medicine [https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.13838]

Key words: cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIED), device malfunction, implantable cardiac pacemakers (ICP), implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICD), patient management, radiation damage

†The report was endorsed by the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO)-Advisory Committee on Radiation Oncology Practice (ACROP).

### Intention:

- 1) Provide an up-to-dated comprehensive guidance,
- 2) Provide initial mechanism of communication between professionals in the RT and cardiac rhythm management.
- 3) Approach the issue through patient management instead of device management.
- 4) Provide guidance for development of institutional policies based on available resources.

**Dose rate study-2002****Influence of high-energy photon beam irradiation on pacemaker operation**J Mouton<sup>1</sup>, R Haug<sup>2</sup>, A Bridier<sup>3</sup>, B Dodinot<sup>4</sup> and F Eschwege<sup>5</sup><sup>1</sup> Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique, BP 12 F 91680 Bruyères-le-Châtel, France<sup>2</sup> DEE, UMR 8578 CNRS–Univ. Paris-sud–SUPELEC, Plateau du Moulon F 91190 Gif-sur-Yvette, France<sup>3</sup> Service de Physique, Institut Gustave ROUSSY, rue Camille Desmoulins F 94805, Villejuif, France<sup>4</sup> Centre de Stimulation Cardiaque, CHU de Brabois, F 54500, Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, France<sup>5</sup> Département de Radiothérapie, Institut Gustave ROUSSY, rue Camille Desmoulins, F 94805, Villejuif, France

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Online at [stacks.iop.org/PMB/47/2879](http://stacks.iop.org/PMB/47/2879)

In conclusion, warnings given by manufacturers about the maximum tolerable cumulative radiation doses for safe operation of irradiated pacemakers (5 Gy), even reduced to 2 Gy, are not reliable. The spread of cumulative doses inducing failures is very large since our observations show an important failure at 0.15 Gy, while ten pacemakers withstood more than 140 Gy of cumulative dose. The safe operation of pacemakers under irradiation depends mainly on type and model. It depends also on dose rate. From our observations, for the safe operation of pacemakers, a recommendation of a maximum dose rate of

0.2 Gy min<sup>-1</sup> rejecting direct irradiation of the pacemaker at a standard dose rate for tumour treatment (2 Gy min<sup>-1</sup>) is made.

**Main points:**

- ◆ 6% of directly irradiated devices failed at <5Gy.
- ◆ 32% failed at <50Gy.
- ◆ 8% failed at 1-2 Gy.
- ◆ Impossible to isolate EMI to other radiation effects.
- ◆ Cumulative dose risk is not stochastic, variability in sensitivity is device dependent.
- ◆ Cumulative dose threshold settings are challenging.

## Cumulative dose-Risk

- Hurkmans 2005, Hurkmans 2005, Uiterwaal 2006, Mollerus 2014
  - Just 6 MV beams.
- Gomez 2013 and Grant 2015
  - Mixed cumulative dose and high photon energies

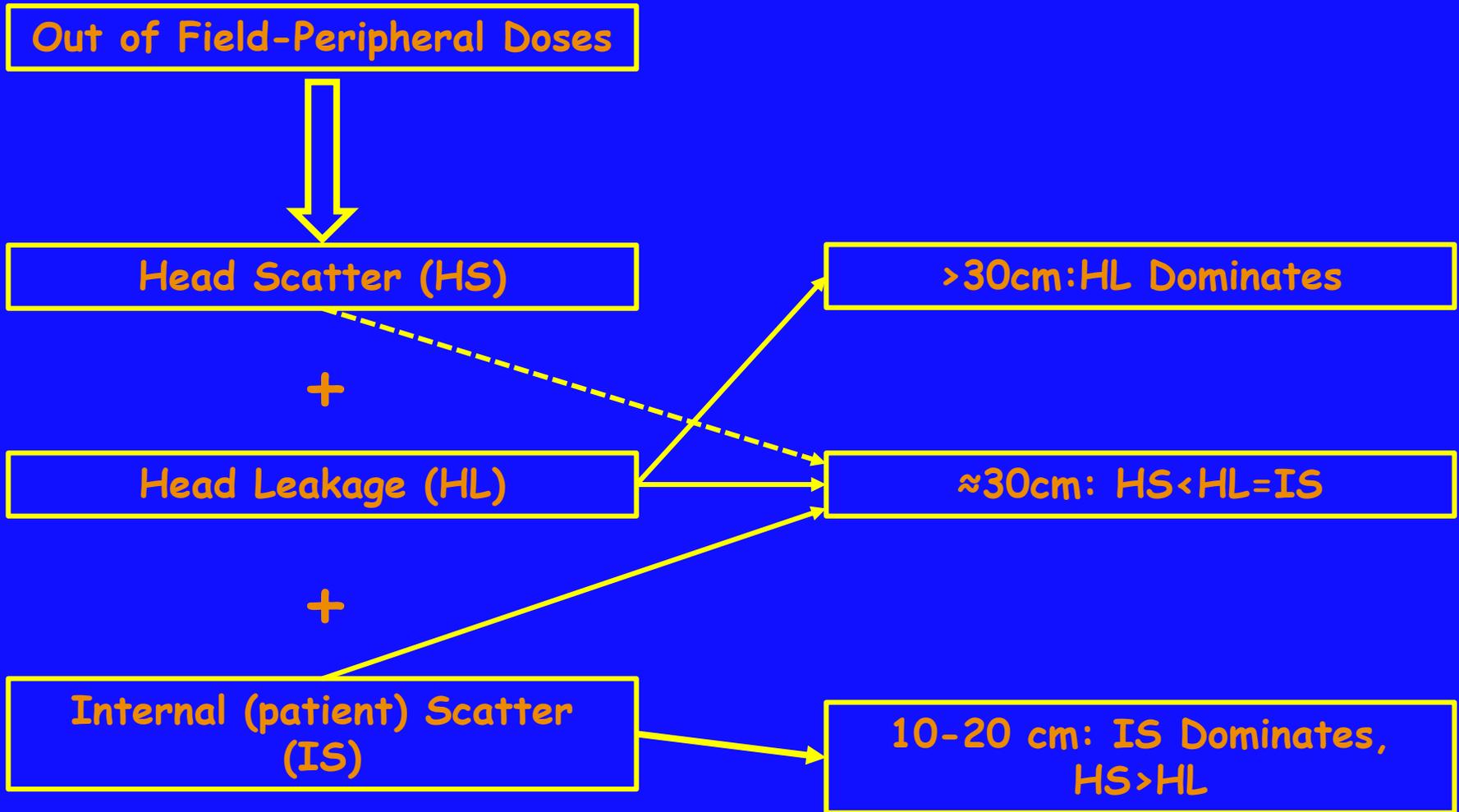
	Failed by 5 Gy	Failed by 50 Gy
ICPs	0/19 (0%)	2/19 (11%)
ICDs	3/30 (10%)	10/19 (53%)
Total	3/49 ( <b>6%</b> )	12/38 ( <b>32%</b> )

High doses often lead to device failure - relatively severe risk

# Malfunction risk associated with clinical procedures

- ◆ Imaging for treatment planning (CT mostly).
- ◆ Imaging for Image Guidance (CT, Rad., EMI)
- ◆ RT treatment delivery (photons, protons, neutrons, particles, other)
- ◆ Use of high energy photons,  $E > 10$  MV?
- ◆ Dose rate
- ◆ IMRT, SBRT, VMAT, FFF beams
- ◆ HDR, breast, MammoSite®
- ◆ Other...

# Out-of-Field Photon Beams



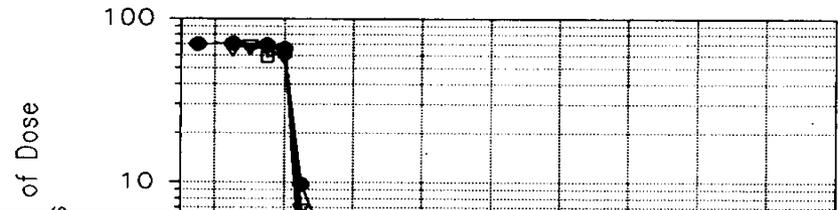
# Out-of-Field Doses: Options

- ◆ **Estimation**
  - Lookup tables/graphs
- ◆ **Calculations**
- ◆ **Measurements**
  - In-Vivo Dosimeter
  - Phantom measurements

# Dose Estimation: Photon out-of-field dose

Fetal dose from radiotherapy with photon beam  
Radiation Therapy Committee Task Group No. 3

- Dose decreases exponentially away from edge of field
- ↑ with field size
- Const. with energy
- Const. with depth



## Wedges

*Physical wedges* → increase out of field dose by 2-4 times (Sherazi et al, 1985, *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*)

*Dynamic or universal wedges* → no increase (Li et al, 1997, *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*)

## MLC

*Secondary MLC* → no impact on out-of-field dose (Mutic et al, 2002, *J Appl Clin Med Phys*)

*Tertiary MLC is extra shielding* → decrease out of field dose by 30-50% (Stern, 1999, *Med Phys*)

(Received 2 June 1994; accepted for publication 20 October 1994)

Approximately 4000 women per year in the United States require radiotherapy for breast cancer. This report presents data and techniques that allow the medical physicist to estimate the fetal dose the fetus will receive and to reduce this dose with appropriate shielding. Data are presented for a variety of photon beams, including cobalt-60 gamma rays and linear accelerators of 60 kVp to 10 MV. Designs for simple and inexpensive to more complex and expensive shielding devices are described. Clinical examples show that proper shielding can reduce the fetal dose to the fetus by 50%. In addition, a review of the biological aspects of irradiation enables estimates of the risks of lethality, growth retardation, mental retardation, malformation, sterility, cancer induction, and other effects.

Fig. 1 of 10

the risks of lethality, growth retardation, mental retardation, malformation, sterility, cancer induction, and other effects.

# Doses out-of-field: TG158 (2017)

## AAPM TG 158: Measurement and calculation of doses outside the treated volume from external-beam radiation therapy

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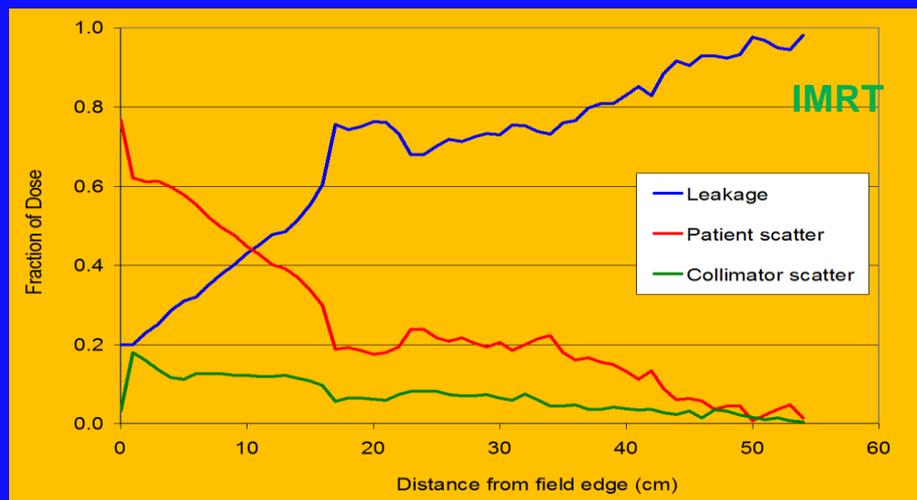
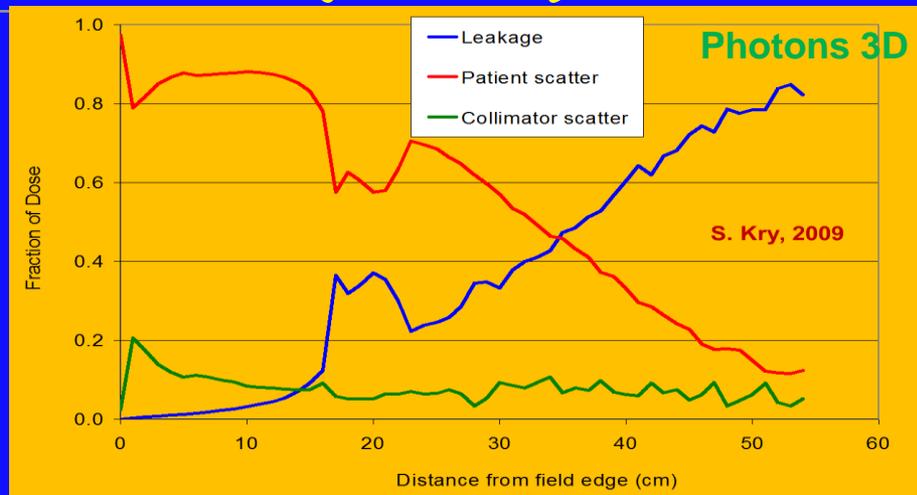
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The introduction of advanced techniques and technology in radiotherapy has greatly improved our ability to deliver highly conformal tumor doses while minimizing the dose to adjacent organs at risk. Despite these tremendous improvements, there remains a general concern about doses to normal tissues that are not the target of the radiation treatment; any “nontarget” radiation should be minimized as it offers no therapeutic benefit. As patients live longer after treatment, there is increased opportunity for late effects including second cancers and cardiac toxicity to manifest. Complicating the management of these issues, there are unique challenges with measuring, calculating, reducing, and reporting nontarget doses that many medical physicists may have limited experience with. Treatment planning systems become dramatically inaccurate outside the treatment field, necessitating a measurement or some other means of assessing the dose. However, measurements are challenging because outside the treatment field, the radiation energy spectrum, dose rate, and general shape of the dose distribution (particularly the percent depth dose) are very different and often require special consideration. Neutron dosimetry is also particularly challenging, and common errors in methodology can easily manifest as errors of several orders of magnitude. Task Group 158 was, therefore, formed to provide guidance for physicists in terms of assessing and managing nontarget doses. In particular, the report: (a) highlights major concerns with nontarget radiation; (b) provides a rough estimate of doses associated with different treatment approaches in clinical practice; (c) discusses the uses of dosimeters for measuring photon, electron, and neutron doses; (d) discusses the use of calculation techniques for dosimetric evaluations; (e) highlights techniques that may be considered for reducing nontarget doses; (f) discusses dose reporting; and (g) makes recommendations for both clinical and research practice. © 2017 American Association of Physicists in Medicine [https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.12462]

Key words: late effects, neutrons, nontarget radiation, out-of-field dose



S. Kry, 2009

# What about SBRT and filter-free beams?

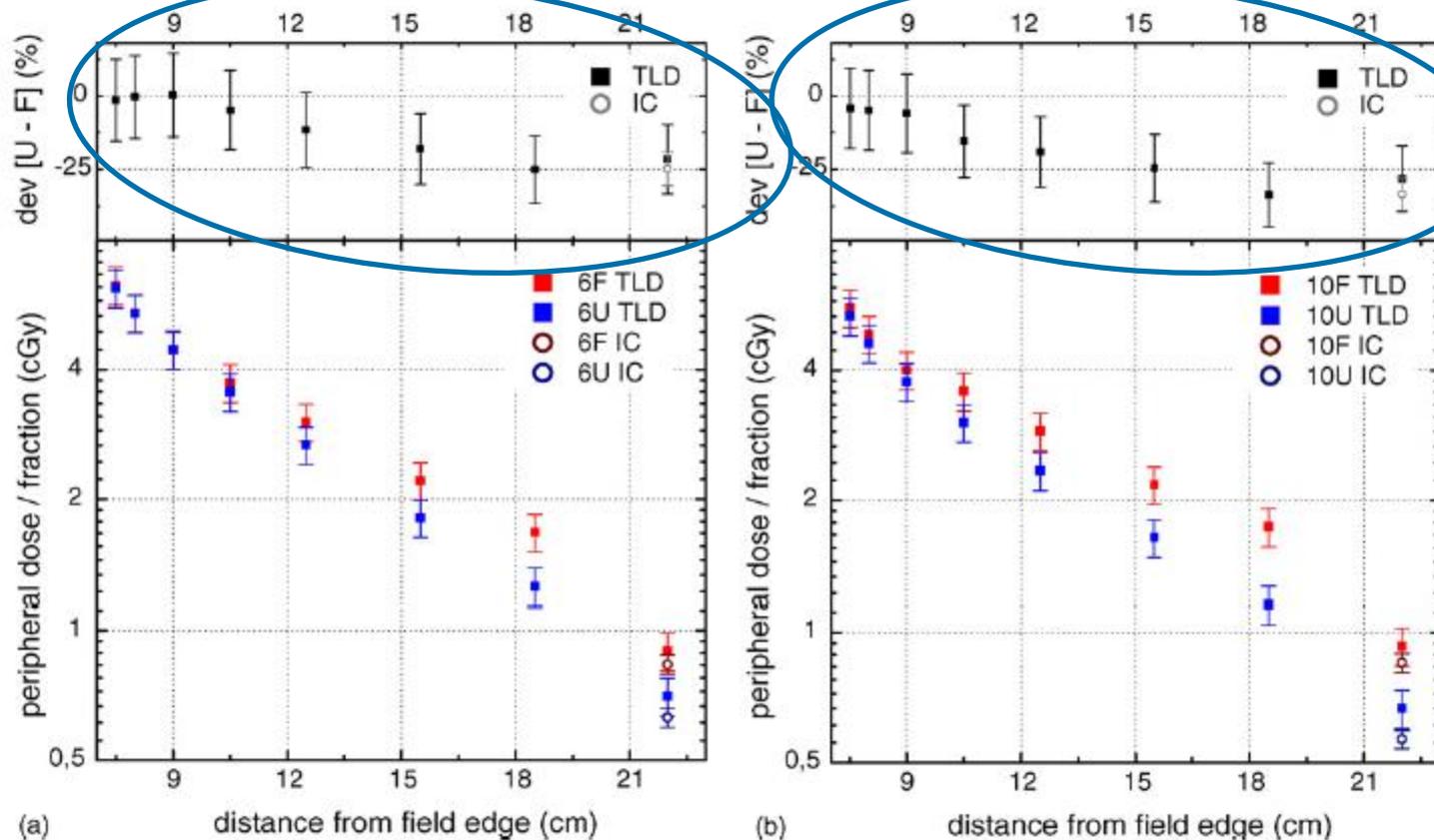


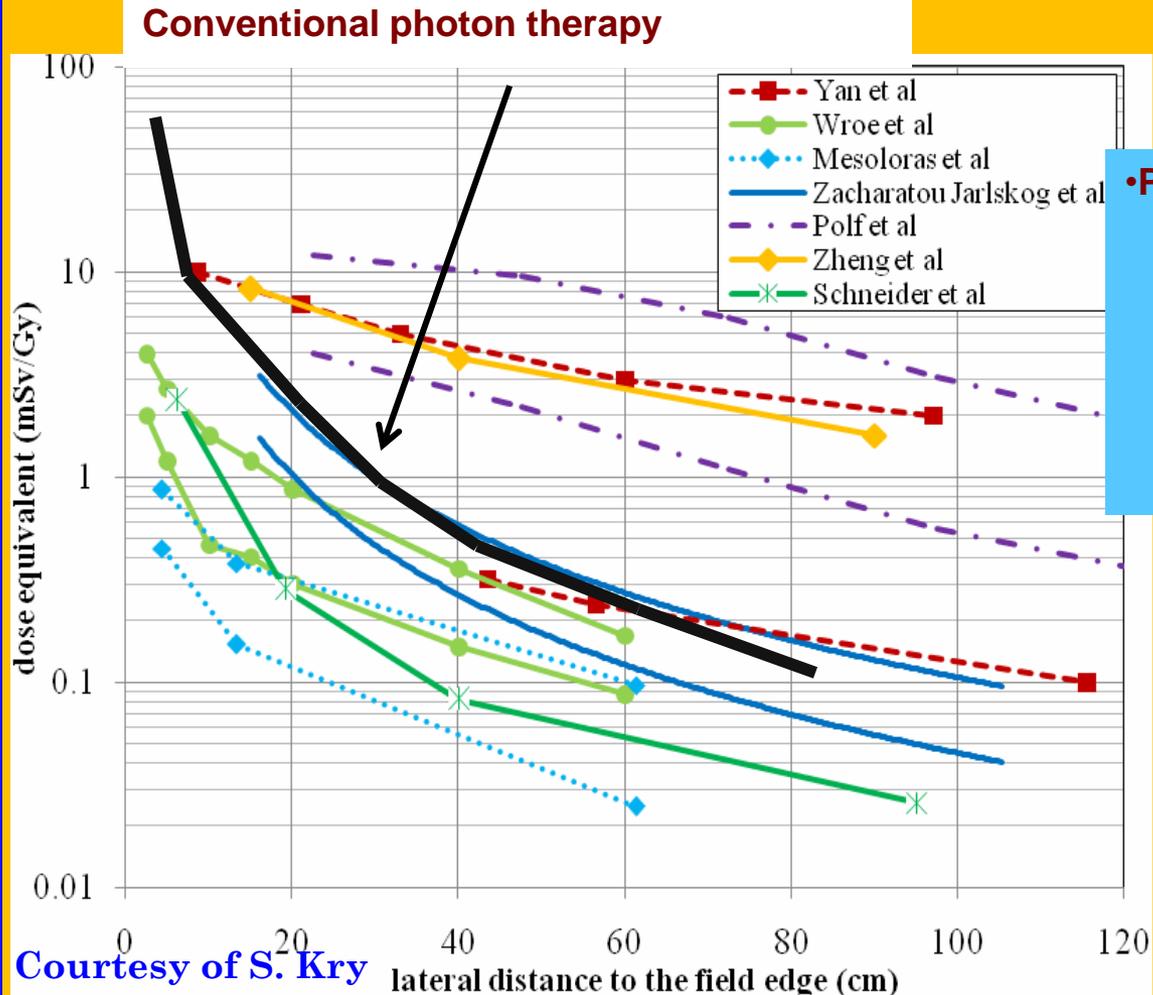
Figure 5. Results of peripheral dose measurements (in the isocentric plane) as a function of the distance from the field edge for the lung SBRT plans with a) 6 and b) 10 MV flattened and unflattened beams. The relative percentage reduction in peripheral dose (dev [U - F]) achieved by using FFF beams when compared to FF beams is indicated in gray in the top part of the figure.

may benefit by decreased exposure of normal tissue to scattered dose outside the field.

# Dose Estimation: Proton out-of-field dose

○ How much dose equivalent is there?

TG-158



Variations in beam parameters

- **Photons:**
  - More dose near treatment field
  - Comparable dose beyond 10-20 cm from field edge

Challenges in Dosimetry  
Lack of high energy response

Unique machines

Courtesy of S. Kry

Xu, 2008, Phys Med Biol

# Dose Calculation: Photon out-of-field dose



ELSEVIER

Peridose, a software program for

Rec

## Abstract

A software program, Peri- dose calculation is based on published data for wedges and shielding blocks. Elsevier Science Ireland Ltd

*Keywords:* Peripheral dose; Fetus

The calculation steps are summarized in the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Peripheral dose (PD)} &= PD\% \times f_{MV} \times f_{thickn} \times f_{depth} \times \\ &(f_{couch}) \times f_{elong} \text{ (step 1 to 6)} \\ \text{PD with wedge} &= PD \times f_{wedge} \text{ (step 7)} \\ \text{extra scatter wedge} &= (f_{wedge} - 1) \times PD \\ \text{Coll. rel. rad. (CRR)} &= PD \times f_{CRR} \text{ (step 8)} \\ \text{PD with block} &= PD \\ \text{scatter block} &= (1 - f_{block} \times (1 - f_{CRR})) \times PD \text{ (step 9)} \\ \text{CRR} &= CRR \times f_{att} \text{ (step 10)} \end{aligned}$$

In these equations the parameters and correction factors are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} PD\% &= \text{peripheral dose in \% of dose at } d_{max} \\ f_{MV} &= \text{correction for photon energy} \\ f_{thickn.} &= \text{correction for patient thickness along beam axis} \\ f_{depth} &= \text{correction for depth of PD point} \\ f_{couch} &= \text{(optional) correction for couch attenuation} \\ f_{elong} &= \text{correction for field elongation} \\ f_{wedge} &= \text{correction if wedge is used} \\ f_{CRR} &= \text{fraction of PD contributed by collimator related radiation} \\ f_{block} &= \text{correction if shielding blocks are used} \\ f_{att} &= \text{attenuation correction of CRR for depth of PD point} \end{aligned}$$

## 2.2. Tangential beams

The program also offers the option to calculate the PD for

## 3.1. Constraints and limitations

When using the program the user has to realize that certain constraints have to be considered. The PD percentages which form the basis for the calculations, are related to the dose at  $d_{max}$ . This is easy for SSD treatments, but for isocentric techniques the user has to calculate the dose at  $d_{max}$  from the dose at isocentre. For non-coplanar, non-orthogonal beams, the program should be used with caution and careful output data interpretation. An example of such a technique would be the application of an anterior oblique vertex field for the treatment of a pituitary or some other brain tumor.

### PERIDOSE REPORT

Date: **Tuesday, August 8, 2000, at 08:35 AM**  
Patient: **John Doe**

Total Peripheral Dose: **19.9 cGy**  
Uncertainty: **12.0 cGy**

Total Leakage and External Scatter: **15.7 cGy**

Total Number of Beams: **2**

Contribution of Beam number 1: **(Left anterior oblique)**  
Peripheral Dose: **7.5 cGy**  
Leakage and External Scatter: **5.9 cGy**

Contribution of Beam number 2: **(Right lateral)**  
Peripheral Dose: **12.4 cGy**  
Leakage and External Scatter: **9.8 cGy**

Fig. 2. Print of the results of the 2-beam calculation for which the input is shown in Fig. 1.

# Treatment planning-dose estimation

- ◆ Contour the cardiac device (if possible: leads, body, electrodes).
- ◆ Select appropriate treatment technique: modality, energy, beam angles, etc.
- ◆ Maximize distance of device from beam(s) borders-only scattered radiation to the device.
- ◆ Utilize independent collimators, dynamic wedging, MLCs, etc - to reduce dose to device.

# Device dose assessment/TPS-calculations

- ♦ **Use the TPS calculated dose**
  - Dose calculation won't be highly accurate because it will not capture the low-energy of the scattered radiation interacting with the high-Z of the CIED
  - Don't worry about this issue (e.g., by over-riding the HU of the device). Just calculate dose normally in the TPS to the CIED contour.
    - Can still over-ride e.g., missing tissue
- ♦ **The TPS is only suitable for assessing dose to the device within 3 cm of the treatment field (below the 5% isodose line)**
- ♦ **Further out, the dose estimates are wrong, typically underestimating dose by 50%, with increasing error as the distance increases.**
- ♦ **Don't use the TPS beyond 3 cm/5% isodose.**

*Slide courtesy of S. Kry*

# Device dose assessment-Measurement

## ◆ Energy:

- *Out-of-Field energy spectrum of a 6MV averages 200-400 keV.*
- *Overresponse of dosimeters*
- *Need flat energy response or well-known correction factor.*
- *Calibration at ~1cm depth, >5cm from field border in reference to a 10x10 at beam calibration conditions.*

## ◆ Depth:

- *Avoid surface measurement-use 0.5-1 cm bolus in practice.*

## ◆ Detectors:

- *Use appropriate detector for in-vivo*
  - *Refer to TG-203*
  - *New guidance TG-191*

TLDs

Chip



Rod



Ultrathin disk

OSLDs

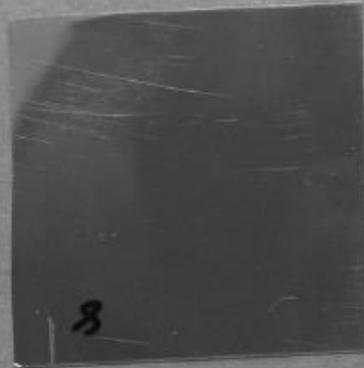


Closed

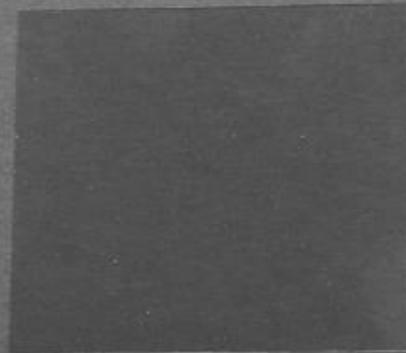


Opened

Film



Radiochromic



Radiographic



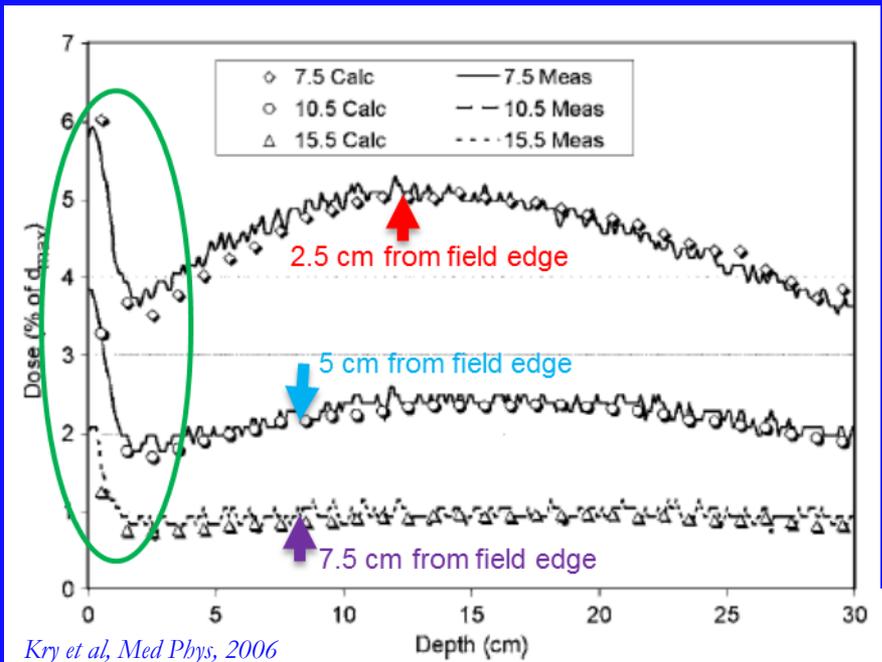
MOSFETs



Diode

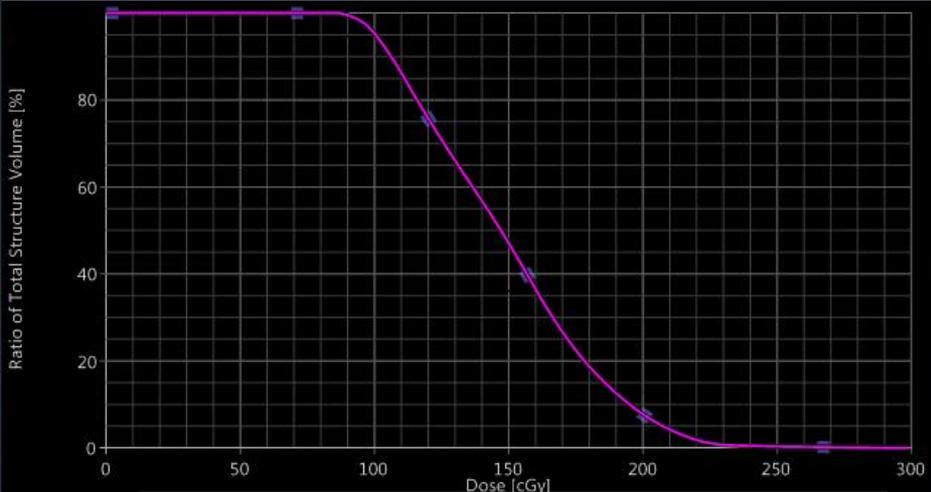
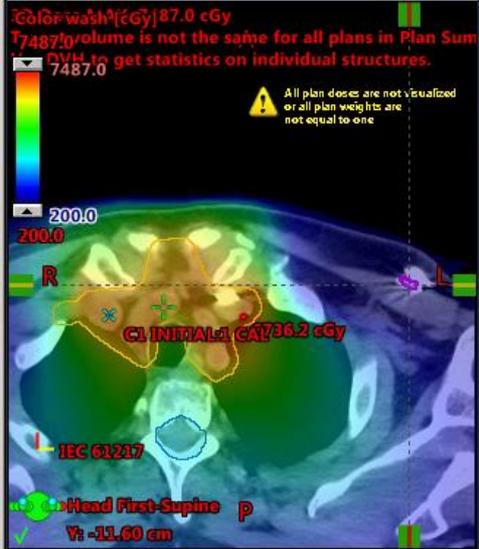
# Device dose assessment-in vivo

- ◆ 3-10 cm from field edge
- ◆ Measure the dose to the device
  - Select an appropriate dosimeter, consider necessary corrections
  - Put bolus over detector
- ◆ Most measurement errors/shortcuts will lead to overestimate of dose
  - Acceptable as long as patient is placed in appropriate risk category
- ◆ There is elevated dose at the surface (by a factor of >2)
- ◆ CIEDs are typically located 1-3 cm below skin
- ◆ To get reasonable dose measurement, cover device in bolus (~1cm)

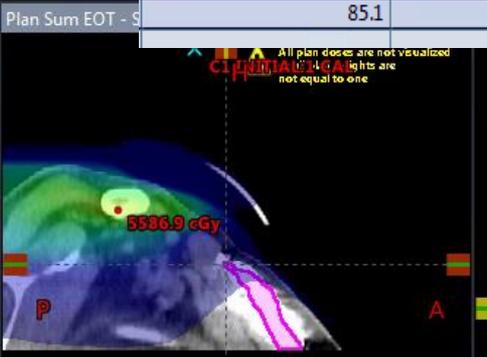
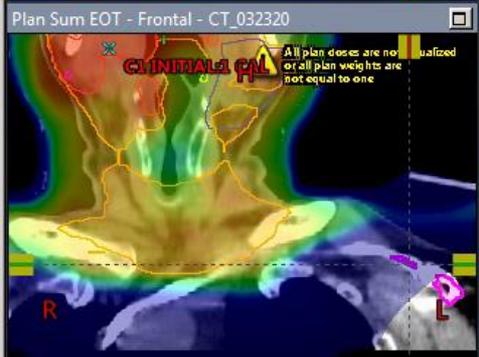


Kry et al, Med Phys, 2006

Slide courtesy of S. Kry



Min Dose [cGy]	Max Dose [cGy]	Mean Dose [cGy]
85.1	300.0	148.7



Target:	PTV_7000	PTV_6300	PTV_5600	PTV_5950
Dose per Fraction (cGy):	200	180	160	170
Number of Fractions:	35	35	35	35
Fractions per day:	1 (one)	1 (one)	1 (one)	1 (one)
Number of Fields per Day:	All fields	All fields	All fields	All fields
Total Dose (cGy):	7000	6300	5600	5950
Cumm. Dose (cGy):	7000	6300	5600	5950
Plan Type/Method:	IMRT/MAT Ph	IMRT/MAT Ph	IMRT/MAT Ph	IMRT/MAT Ph
Energy:	6 MV Drop Down	6 MV Drop Down	6 MV Drop Down	6 MV Drop Down

Structure	Limit	Vol [%]	[cGy]	Priority
(d)PACEMAKER+05	upper	0.0	150.0	200
(d)PACEMAKER+05	upper		150.0	150
(D)pacemaker+20	upper	0.0	500.0	200
(D)pacemaker+20	upper		500.0	150

Device Information: Biotronik, model# Setrox S 53

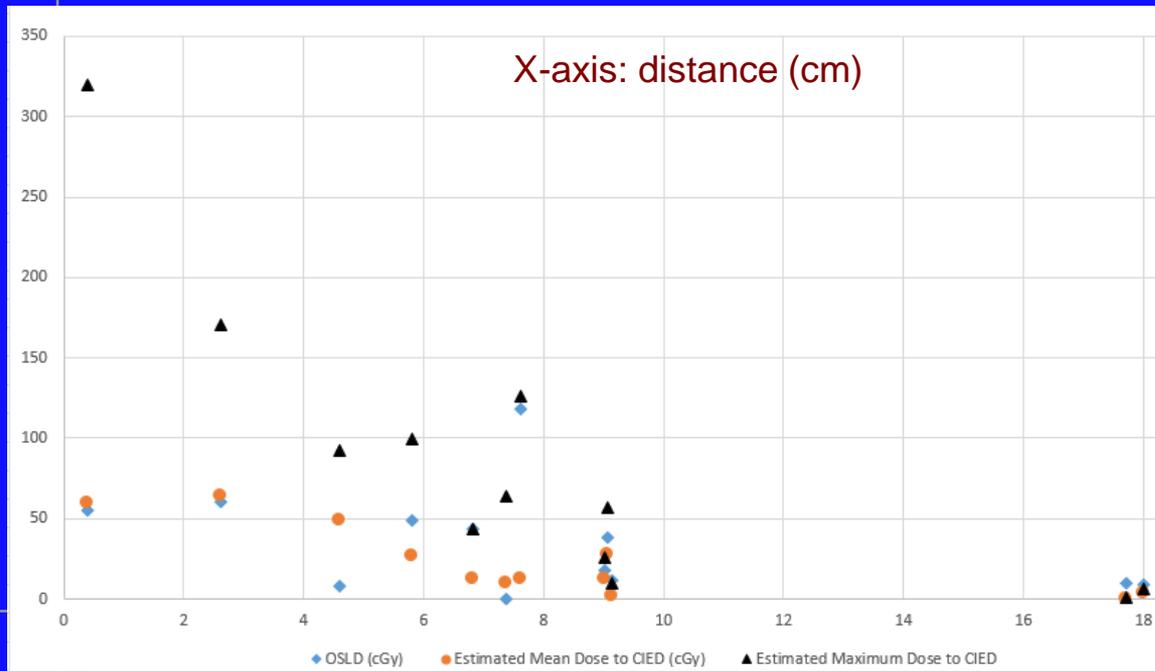
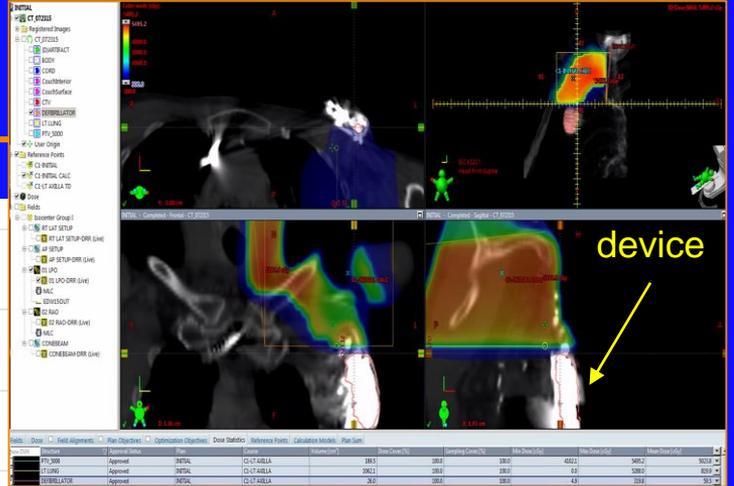
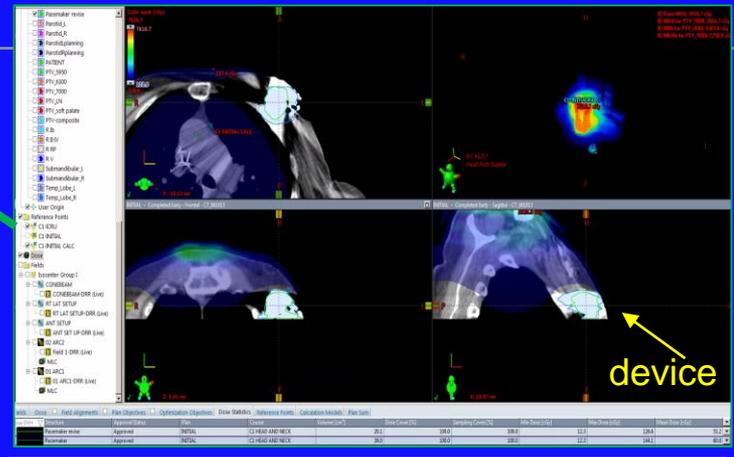
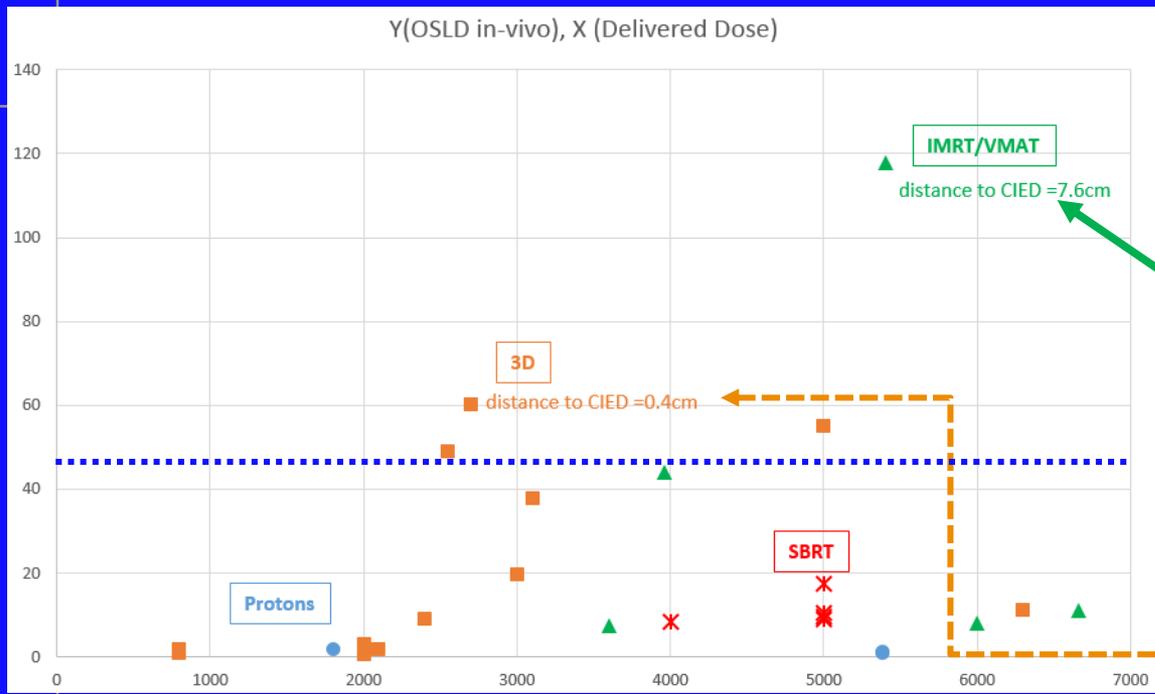
Plan	OSLD Reading (cGy)	Average Reading (cGy)	No. Fractions	Expected Total Dose at Device (cGy)	Eclipse Max Dose to Device (cGy)
INITIAL	4.06	4.18	28	146.44	266.14
	4.29				
INITIAL:1	4.49	4.20	7		
	3.91				

Comments: Two optically stimulated luminescent dosimeters (OSLDs) were placed over the patient's device and under 1.5 cm bolus. Imaging dose was included in the measurement.

# Device dose assessment

- ♦ *Beyond 10 cm from the field edge:*
- ♦ *Dose almost certain to be less than 2 Gy*
  - *Use clinical judgement. If there are vertex fields pointed straight at the device it may still warrant a measurement.*
- ♦ *Don't generally need to worry about the dose at this distance (>10cm)*
- ♦ *No further assessment necessary*

*Slide courtesy of S. Kry*



Mihailidis et al., private communication

# Additional dose assessments

## ♦ Imaging and Image Guidance

- CT simulation: Transient effects
- IG during RT: Refer to TG-75 and TG-180 for dose assessment
  - Imaging dose can vary from tenths of cGy to >10cGy per fraction depending on what kind of imaging is used (need for image parameter optimization)

## ♦ Brachytherapy

- Mostly for breast brachytherapy, dose can reach >100cGy at 10cm from a breast applicator.

TABLE II. Estimated maximal dose ( $D_d$ ) to the device for typical distances from a spherical breast applicator's surface. (Table reproduced from Kim et al.<sup>98</sup>).

Balloon Vol. (cc)	35	50	70	90	110	125
Balloon Diam. (cm)	4.06	4.58	5.12	5.56	5.94	6.20
1 Gy	15.6	16.9	18.2	19.3	20.2	20.8
2 Gy	10.5	11.3	12.1	12.8	13.4	13.8
3 Gy	8.2	8.8	9.4	10.0	10.4	10.7
4 Gy	6.8	7.3	7.8	8.2	8.6	8.9
5 Gy	5.9	6.3	6.7	7.1	7.4	7.6

Estimated dose to the device at distance,  $d$  from a spherical applicator is given by:  $D_d = D_P \cdot \left( \frac{R_{\text{balloon}} + 1}{R_{\text{balloon}} + d} \right)^2$ , where  $D_P$  is 3.4 Gy at 1 cm from applicator surface and  $R_{\text{balloon}}$  is the balloon radius (cm).

# Recommendations - Summary

- CT imaging using limited couch movement or no couch motion should be avoided to prevent long (>3s) periods of direct irradiation of the device.
- Lower dose-rates are preferred (higher are not prohibitive).
- The generator for the device should be kept at least 5cm from the collimated field edge if possible, including imaging fields
- Appropriate beam angles should be selected increase the distance between the field edge and the CIED.
- Perform in-vivo dosimetry for the first fraction (at the minimum) if the device is <10 cm from treatment area.
- The TPS can be used in lieu of a measurement if the device is within 3 cm (laterally) of the field edge (50% isodose line ).

# THANK YOU



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