ICRU RELEASES REPORT NO. 89

Prescribing, Recording, and Reporting Brachytherapy for Cancer of the Cervix

ICRU Report 89 is organized such that it starts with the essential background, including a clinical introduction, historical and current techniques (e.g., volumetric imaging for cervix cancer). A key element is the introduction of the 4D adaptive target concept at certain treatment time points based upon clinical examination and imaging. For the rectum, bladder, sigmoid, adjacent bowel and vagina in addition to contours including the entire organ the report emphasizes the presence of different morbidity endpoints and related substructures within the organ.

Specific concepts and terminology are developed, comparable to the GEC ESTRO recommendations for selecting and contouring the various tumor-related (adaptive) volumes, together with the delineation of the adjacent organs at risk. Detailed contouring of these structures and volumes based on repetitive imaging and gynecologic examination requires a comprehensive understanding of tumor spread and tumor response.

This Report provides comprehensive recommendations on prescribing, recording, and reporting brachytherapy focusing on volumetric imaging in cervix cancer brachytherapy as current advanced standard. However, it is well recognized that the majority of advanced cervix cancer patients are and will be treated in developing countries with limited resources. Patients in these countries are usually treated with less complex radiotherapy methods. Therefore, minimum standards are also elaborated (“radiographic assessment”) and this standard is integrated into the volumetric imaging based approach.

The concepts and terms described in this report follow the tradition of previous ICRU reports on prescribing, recording and reporting external beam radiotherapy (from ICRU Report 50 to 83). In particular the concepts for GTV, CTV and PTV are elaborated within the context of cervix cancer brachytherapy, and now introduce a new adaptive target concept.

The Report was prepared in collaboration with GEC ESTRO highlighting the intensive and effective collaboration on cervix cancer brachytherapy during the last two decades.

The Report is available from Oxford University Press http://jicru.oxfordjournals.org in both soft- and hardcopy formats. For additional information contact David A. Schauer, ScD, CHP at icru@icru.org, 301.657.2652 (x31) or 301.907.8768 (fax).