

Editorial

We are pleased to present Volume 2 Issue 3 of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*. In the last issue we announced that, from 2001, the Journal has been accepted for abstracting and indexing by EMBASE, the Excerpta Medica database. Thank you to those of you who wrote in to congratulate the publishers and the Editorial Board on this recognition of the Journal and those of you who commented on the quality of published papers.

The articles presented in this issue of the Journal all have a common theme, that is the research presented, whether it is evaluating new technology or planning software, the evidence provided supports a change in working practices. These changes are in the interests of treatment accuracy and in the longer term, providing better treatment outcomes.

In the first article, Cormack et al. gives a detailed account of their research into the production of an optimum breast technique. The adoption of the new technique has produced a significant reduction in the time taken to simulate and treat the patient and, in addition, treatment set ups have been found to be more consistently reproducible.

In the second article, McJury et al. present an interesting paper in the impact on localisation of utilising contrast enhanced computed tomography scans and the forma input of a radiologist in the planning process. The authors' findings are extremely significant in improving the accuracy of localisation in the radiotherapy treatment of head and neck and brain cancer.

The article by Mohammed and O'Rourke highlights the value of the creation of specialist teams in oncology and they detail how the introduction of a lymphoma team has significantly improved the recording of treatment data and reduced the variations in clinical practice.

Vincent Wu et al. give an excellent insight into how sophisticated software capabilities are allowing dose distributions to the PTV to be more accurately aligned and in reducing dose to critical organs for nasopharyngeal carcinoma.

In the next article, Rachel Harris et al. give a detailed description of the preparation of an Orfit® shell and report on their research in undertaking a comparison of reproducibility between Orfit® and acetate shells in the treatment of age related macular degeneration.

Nikki Blackler presents a review on the technological improvements in imaging and how increased sophistication in radiotherapy techniques are necessitating the reassessment of treatments, in particular in the brain and head and neck region.

In the final article, Hoornstra et al. present their findings on an observational study in which they evaluated the quality of information the patients had received when they had been recruited into an EORTC trial and how this information related to the notion of informed consent.

We hope that the articles presented here will stimulate professional debate on the issues raised. To facilitate debate we have a dedicated member of the Editorial Board who is our correspondence editor, Hazel Colyer. Hazel would be pleased to receive your letters and will comment upon and reply. So if you would like to comment on a previous article or have any burning issues you wish to raise, then please write in.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Journal and look forward to receiving your comments.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors-in-Chief

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