surgeon checks the presence of metastasis in the lymph nodes after the removal of the tumor. In the second case, the gamma locator can detect tumors located superficially, and accurately determine their boundaries [2].

When selecting the scintillator the following requirements should be considered: high relative light yield compared to NaI(Tl), the high value of the effective atomic number. The lanthanum cerium bromine has demonstrated the best features: the light yield higher than that of NaI(Tl) (130%), high density, high atomic number provide high efficiency of photoelectric absorption of gamma rays, and the decay time of the order of tens of nanoseconds provides high temporal resolution of the detector. Silicon photomultiplier is a device for detection of low intensive and very fast (several hundred nanosecond duration) light flashes. SiPM is used due to its high detection efficiency, low bias voltage, compact dimensions and high gain of signals. Experimental studies have shown that a scintillator packaged together with the photodetector provides 4,1% FWHM energy resolution at 662 keV (Cs-137).

Gamma locator is constructed in cordless configuration and equipped with a lithium-ion battery. Indication is performed by an acoustic signal and LED. Adjusting of the bias voltage of the photodetector and the thresholds of the discriminator is carried out by changing the resistance of the trimmers.

The main technical characteristics of the prototype gamma locator were determined in the laboratory of NRNU MEPhI according to the NEMA NU3-2004 protocol [3]. Spatial resolution of gamma locator is the minimum distance between two point sources on which they can be resolved separately, or FWHM of the dependence of counting rate of the transverse distance between the detector and the source, and is measured to be 20 mm. Spatial selectivity is the polar angle, at which the count rate drops twice and it is measured to be 26 degrees. Sensitivity is 118 cps/MBq.

For the comparison performance of scintillation and semiconductor gamma locator the NEMA testing of the semiconductor CdTe-based commercial gamma probe was performed. The field of view of the CdTe gamma probe was formed with a lead collimator with 3 mm diameter aperture. Spatial resolution was measured to be 22 mm, and angular resolution is 30 degrees.

Keywords: gamma probe, miniature gamma detector, radioguided surgery

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Evaluation of the size of micrometric/nanometric dosimeters for use in radiotherapy and medical physics

M. Cunha[1], E. Testa[1], M. Beuve[1], J. Balosso[2,3], A. Chaikh[2,3]

[1] Université de Lyon, F-69622, Lyon, France; Université de Lyon 1, Villeurbanne; CNRS/IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon

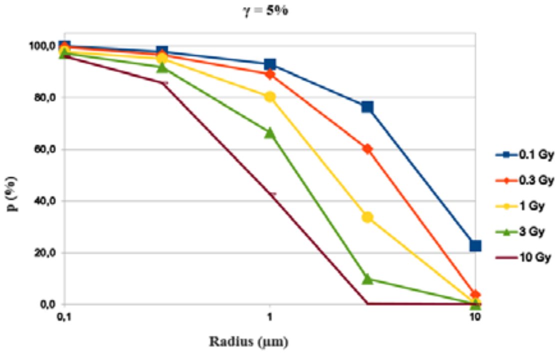
[2] Department of Radiation Oncology and Medical Physics, Grenoble University Hospital.

[3] Univ. Grenoble-Alpes, Grenoble, France.

When treating tumors with radiotherapy, it is of utmost importance to ensure that the prescribed dose is accurately delivered to the target volumes. In that sense, *in-vivo* dosimetry in real time was recently implemented in radiotherapy departments. Dosimeter performance depends necessarily on physical and geometrical parameters (e.g. beam energy and distance from source to skin), which implies the use of correction factors. Implantable dosimeters are therefore preferable in order to minimize the need for corrections. They should be as small as possible, but still they should provide reliable measurements to comply with the requirements of clinical practice in routine radiotherapy. The state-of-the-art of these kind of dosimeters was the subject of a review elsewhere (1), which reported that implantable detectors of submillimetric size are currently available. The purpose of this study is to assess by Monte-Carlo simulations how much the size of such dosimeters can be decreased without jeopardizing their performance in a clinical environment.

First, the interaction of photons from a ^{60}Co source with water was simulated with a Monte-Carlo tool (2). The calculations were performed for 0.3, 0.1, 1, 3 and 10 Gy. Then, the distributions of specific energy were obtained for volumes representing dosimeters at nanometric and micrometric scales. Cylinders with equal radii of 0.3, 0.1, 1, 3 and 10 µm were used for this purpose. The mean specific energy $\langle z_t \rangle$ was calculated for each case. To evaluate how the dosimeter size would impact its performance in a clinical scenario, the probability *p* that a dosimeter measurement falls outside a given interval defined around $\langle z_t \rangle$ was estimated. Intervals were defined as $[\langle z_t \rangle - \gamma\langle z_t \rangle \; ; \; \langle z_t \rangle + \gamma\langle z_t \rangle]$ with γ equal to 3%, 5% and 10%.

The pattern of the distributions of specific energy evolves with dosimeter size and irradiation dose. Fixing the irradiation dose and decreasing the dosimeter radius or fixing the radius and decreasing the irradiation dose strongly widened the range in measured values of specific energy, but also increased the probability of yielding a non-null measurement. In turn, for higher doses and radii, distributions tend to Gaussian curves.



Concerning the probability of obtaining a measurement outside the defined interval, the larger the interval, the irradiation dose, and the dosimeter radius, the smaller this probability became (see figure above).

The simulation results showed that dosimeters at a nanometric scale are not able to yield statistically-reproducible measurements and are therefore unfit for use in clinical practice. Increasing the size to micrometric scale led to a decrease in the statistical fluctuations. Nevertheless, to have enough accuracy at routine clinical doses (approximately 2 Gy in the tumor volume), a dosimeter radius of at least 10 µm is required.

Keywords: radiotherapy; nano/microdosimeter; Monte-Carlo simulations

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From 2D to 3D: Proton radiography and proton CT in proton therapy: A simulation study