Routine WB-MRI may aid in the early detection of disease progression in the bones, allowing earlier change in systemic therapy or the use of prophylactic radiotherapy particularly for incipient cord compression. This data generates the hypothesis that WB-MRI may prevent progression of bone disease and development of symptomatic MSCC. This has the caveat that the population studied was selected and in particular had relatively stable disease that permitted the routine use of WB-MRI. It is possible that the morphological spinal MRI examination component, rather than the diffusion-weighted sequences, may provide much of the utility of the WB-MRI examination. Further prospective studies are required to confirm our findings.

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Phase II study of short-course accelerated palliative radiation therapy for advanced H&N tumours
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Purpose or Objective: To assess the effectiveness of a Short-course Accelerated Radiation Therapy (SHARON) in the palliative treatment of patients with advanced primary or metastatic H&N tumours.

Material and Methods: A phase II clinical trial was planned based on optimal two-stage Simon’s design. Eligibility criteria included patients with an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of ≤3. Twenty-three patients were treated with H&N radiotherapy at 20 Gy (5 Gy per fraction) in 2 days with a twice daily fractionation. The primary endpoint was the assessment of efficacy in terms of symptoms relief.

Results: Characteristics of the enrolled patients were: male/female: 9/14, median age: 83 years (range: 40-98). Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status was <3 in 11 patients (47.8%). Grade 1-2 acute skin (60.9%) and mucositis (39.1%) toxicities were recorded. Only one patient (4.3%) experienced grade 3 acute mucositis. With a median follow-up time of 4 months (range, 1-32 months) 3 skin grade 1 and 2 skin grade 2 late toxicities have been observed. Of the 23 symptomatic patients, 21 showed an improvement or resolution of baseline symptoms (overall palliative response rate: 91.3%). Three-month overall survival was 89.7% (median survival time: N.R.). Median survival without symptoms...