

Conclusion. Clinical outcomes of CSI schedule with HT are favorable, with lower resultant doses to the normal tissue. Acute and late toxicities are tolerable without severe late side effects.

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Quality assessment of the program “Carrito Don Amable”. Importance performance analysis (IPA)

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Introduction. On the 16th of January 2012, the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC) implemented the volunteer program “Carrito Don Amable” in the Radiation Oncology Service of Meixoeiro Hospital of the University Hospital Center of Vigo (CHUVI) with the aim of taking care the needs that are not met under the healthcare scope, both for the oncologic patients and for his relatives. One year after its implementation, it will be carried out a quality assessment of the program, taking into account the importance and the assessment of the attributes made by patients and relatives that are program beneficiaries.

Objective. Analyzing the quality of the program “Carrito Don Amable” of the AECC, implemented in the Radiation Oncology Service of the CHUVI through the IPA Technique (Importance-Performance Analysis) in a representative sample of program beneficiaries.

Methods. The IPA is a quality assessment technique based on the analysis of expectation together with the assessment of the attributes of the applicable service. In this study, it is implemented a questionnaire fulfilled by a statistically significant sample of the patients and relatives beneficiaries of the program.

Results and conclusions. Quadrant graphics will represent those attributes of the program that could be improved, those that will be improved as a priority, those attributes that could imply a waste of resources or those of low priority. We will measure the general success of the program assessed by its beneficiaries, the patients and relatives.

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Quality of life data as prognostic indicators of survival in patients with melanoma: An overview of our experience

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Melanoma is a cancer that develops in melanocytes, the pigment cells present in the skin. It can be more serious than the other forms of skin cancer because it may spread to other parts of the body (metastasize) and cause serious illness and death. About 40,000 new cases of melanoma are diagnosed in the United States every year. Health-related quality of life and survival are two important outcome measures in melanoma research and practice. The aim of this presentation is to examine the relationship between quality of life data and survival time in patients with melanoma using a general, validated dermatology QOL instrument: the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI). A total of 25 patients with melanoma were studied on the relationship between quality of life and survival and we were found to be relevant and that were further examined. With few exceptions, the findings showed that quality of life data or some aspects of quality of life measures were significant independent predictors of survival duration. Global quality of life, functioning domains and symptom scores – such as appetite loss, fatigue and pain – were the most important indicators, individually or in combination, for predicting survival times in cancer patients after adjusting for one or more demographic and known clinical prognostic factors. This review provides evidence for a positive relationship between quality of life data or some quality of life measures and the survival duration of cancer patients. Pre-treatment (baseline) quality of life data appeared to provide the most reliable information for helping clinicians to establish prognostic criteria for treating their patients. It is recommended that future studies should use valid instruments, apply sound methodological approaches and adequate multivariate statistical analyses adjusted for socio-demographic characteristics and known clinical prognostic factors with a satisfactory validation strategy.

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Radiation osteitis after radiotherapy of soft tissue sarcomas

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Background. Delayed complications should be taken into account for treatment and routine follow-up of patients with soft tissue sarcomas (STS), in order to prevent alterations in bone growth, osteitis, or secondary stress fractures.

Purpose. To evaluate Magnetic Resonance (MR) imaging patterns of differentiation from osteitis to other radiation induced bone changes, metastasis or tumoral extension, after radiotherapy (RT) of STS.

Materials and methods. Twenty one patients were selected from our data base of sarcomas at Cruces University Hospital, from March 2004 to December 2010. All of them, STS of extremities, who went through radical surgical resection and radiotherapy. Image findings in MR were reviewed to differentiate potential post-treatment changes, and differentiate them, from recurrent tumor, with clinical correlation. 51.38% of selected patients were female, and 47.62% male. 3 cases of radiation osteitis were identified (prevalence of 14.2%). The mean age was 65.6. 2 patients (66.6%) had a myxoid liposarcoma and 1 patient (33.3%) a high-grade fibrosarcoma. Median dose was 55 Gy (range, 45–60 Gy). Brachytherapy was used in 1 patient (33.3%). MR shows changes in the marrow signal within the region of tumor bed, these abnormalities have low intensity in T1 sequences and high signal in T2 and STIR. After administration of gadolinium, in T1 weighted and SPIR sequences, slight heterogenous enhanced areas appear, due to fibrotic changes. These signal changes are focal, show geographic distribution, a faint enhancement mainly in peripheral areas, are not accompanied by soft tissue mass, does not exist in the first MR controls, and they increase in size and number at subsequent follow-up.

Conclusions. MR can illustrate abnormal bone change distribution and is useful for diagnosing osteitis by characteristic intensity patterns. Adding STIR sequence would be considered if radiation osteitis is suspected, in order to improve diagnosis from recurrent disease, follow-up and treatment if required, in these patients.

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Radiotherapy as treatment of sialorrhea in bulbar and pseudobulbar palsy

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Background and purpose. Bulbar and pseudobulbar palsy is defined by impairment of cranial nerves due to lower and upper motor neuron lesions. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Parkinson's disease are examples of this kind of neurological pathology. Sialorrhea is a frequent symptom, because of progressive weakness of oral, lingual and pharyngeal muscles. As salivary glands radiation provokes xerostomia, this study aims to investigate the response to palliative radiotherapy parotid, to reduce salivary secretion in these patients.

Materials and methods. We report data from fifteen patients treated between March 2010 and January 2012 (nine women and six men), mean aged 56.6 years (range from 29 to 84). Thirteen were diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and two with Parkinson's disease with major drooling problems. Therapy with anticholinergics and intraparotid botulinum toxin had failed in most of them. All the patients were treated with palliative external radiation therapy to reduce salivary secretion. Conformal radiotherapy technique with two oblique anterior and posterior wedged fields was chosen. In ten patients, 8 Gy dose was prescribed to the isocentre using 6 MV photons in a single fraction. Five patients received two 8 Gy dose fractions in each of the parotid glands, for a period of two months after the first fraction. As majority of patients had decubitus intolerance, adequate immobilization systems were possible only in some of them. We analyze the treatment toxicity.

Results. After radiotherapy, nine patients had a significant reduction of salivary secretion. Four patients did not achieve a relevant reduction of sialorrhea or any subjective improvement. The last two patients were lost or died in this period as a result of the underlying disease. All of them had cutaneous transient toxicity as the only side effect.

Conclusions. In the present study we show a significative improvement of sialorrhea in patients with bulbar and pseudobulbar palsy, after single or twice fraction of external palliative radiation therapy when other treatments have failed. No major side effects appeared, apart from radiation-induced dermatitis.

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Radiotherapy in Dupuytren's contracture: A single institution's experience

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Introduction. Radiotherapy can prevent progression of early-stage Dupuytren's contracture. To report our experience and make a review of the literature.

Methods. Between 2011 and 2012, 5 patients have been treated in our Hospital with electrons (5 MeV). We use individual lead and we treat the diseased areas only. According to Tubiana's classification, 3 patients had stage N/I, 1 had stage I and 1 had stage II. We have evaluated subjective response, objective response (palpable nodules and cords, functional changes) and acute and chronic toxicity.

Results. All patients received 5×3 Gy (total dose 21 Gy). The mean age was 57 years. 80% were men. 4 patients had been treated before radiotherapy, with local excision (75%). With a follow-up of 11 months, 60% patients observed subjective response and 20% patients observed stable situation. Objective reduction of nodules and cords occurred in 3 patients, 1 of them had also functional