



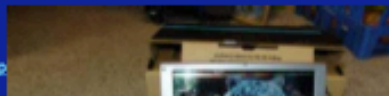
***TOSSICITÀ EMERGENTI
CON LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE***

Anna Merlotti

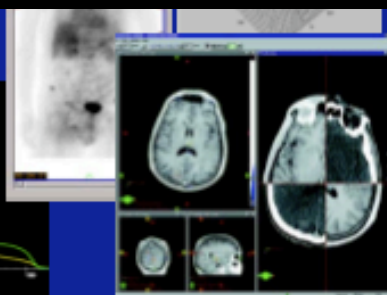
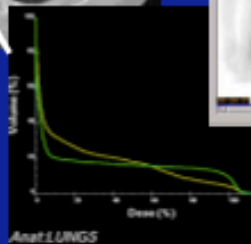
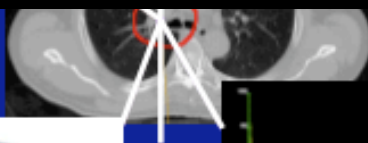
**A.O. Ospedale di Circolo di Busto Arsizio
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Since 1991



The use of multibeam circumferential IMRT dose arrangement introduces higher integral dose to normal tissues compared with conventional techniques





BEAM PATH TOXICITIES TO NON-TARGET STRUCTURES DURING INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIATION THERAPY FOR HEAD AND NECK CANCER

DAVID I. ROSENTHAL, M.D.,* MARK S. CHAMBERS, D.M.D.,† CLIFTON D. FULLER, M.D.,‡
NEAL C. S. REBUENO, B.S.,* JOHN GARCIA, C.M.D.,* MERRILL S. KIES, M.D.,§
WILLIAM H. MORRISON, M.D.,* K. KIAN ANG, M.D., PH.D.,* AND ADAM S. GARDEN, M.D.*

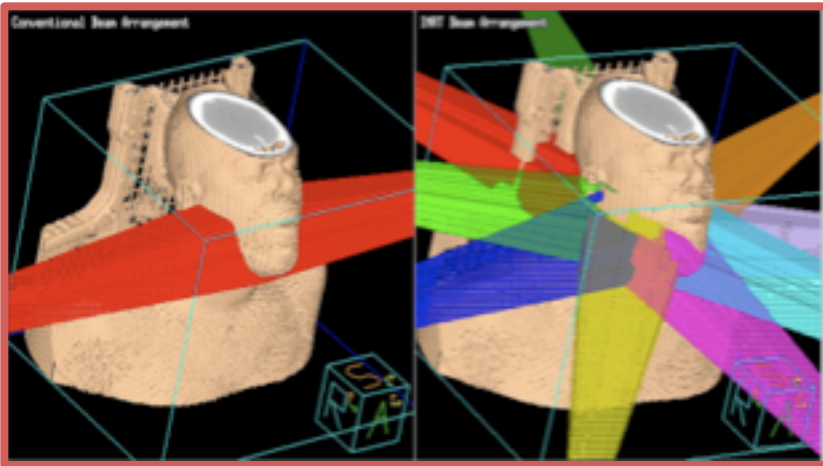
Departments of *Radiation Oncology, †Dental Oncology, and ‡Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, The University of Texas

“Decrement in specific toxicities (e.g., xerostomia) have lead some to assume that IMRT leads to a global reduction in toxicity as compared with 3D-CRT techniques.”

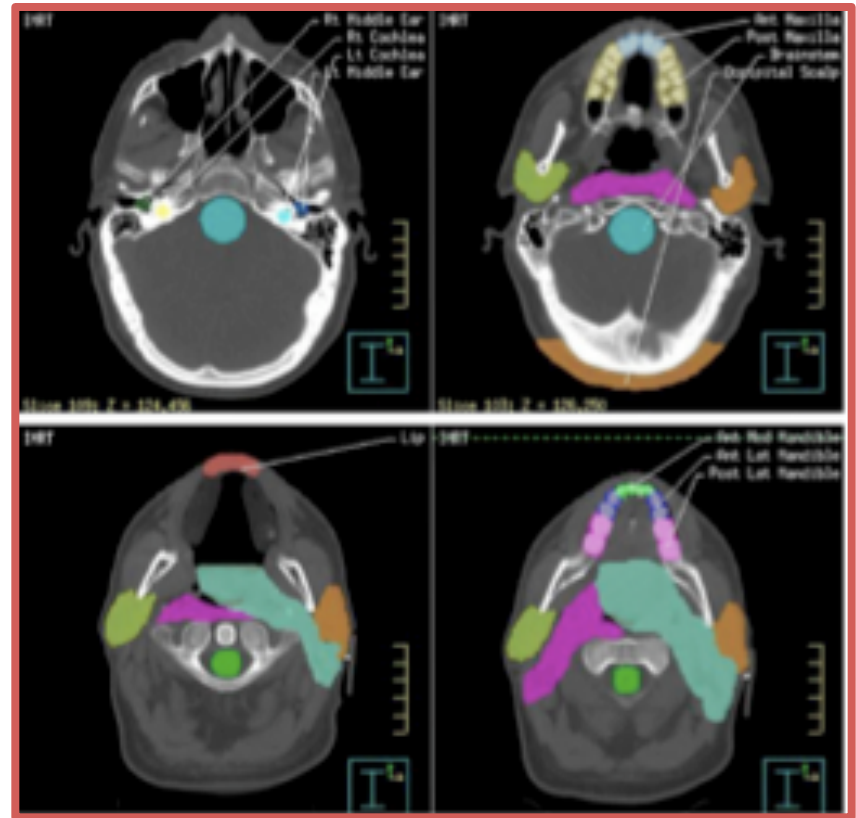
Table 3. Rates (%) of toxicities by treatment group: IMRT with or without concurrent cisplatin (100 mg/m²)

Incidence of toxicities by treatment group (%)		
	IMRT alone	Concurrent cisplatin
Nausea	76	98
Vomiting	38	68
Headache	10	30
Occipital scalp epilation	40	25
Moist skin desquamation	28	35
Anterior oral mucositis	9	22

Abbreviation: IMRT = intensity-modulated radiation therapy.



- ① quantification of observed toxicity to noncontoured structures of interest;
- ② dosimetric evaluation of the delivered dose to those structures;
- ③ determination of potential dose differentials of those structures in IMRT vs. 3D-CRT plans;



④ generation of dose/toxicity threshold values through exploratory recursive partitioning-based analysis to generate hypotheses for future testing.

NAUSEA AND VOMITING

	Toxicity grade				
	0	1	2	3	4
Nausea*					
IMRT alone	24	33	38	5	0
Concurrent cisplatin	2	22	58	18	0
Vomiting**					
IMRT alone	63	16	18	3	0
Concurrent cisplatin	32	18	38	12	0

in 24 ore

In RPA, nausea and emesis were associated with reconstructed **mean dose to the brainstem of >36 Gy**

Abbreviation: IMRT = intensity-modulated radiation therapy.

* p < 0.004 based on Pearson Chi-Square test.

** p < 0.04 based on Pearson Chi-Square test.



LE TUE MOVENZE
MI RICORDANO LE
ONDE DEL MARE!

ANCHE TU MI RICORDI
IL MARE...
...HO LA NAUSEA!

9 pts mean brainstem dose >36 Gy:
6 (66%) had clinically evident nausea, and all 9 (100%) emesis.

50 pts mean brainstem dose < 36 Gy:
26 (52%) had nausea and 41 (82%) emesis

Table 4. Percentage of patients with moderate to severe vomiting in the IMRT and concurrent cisplatin groups. *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 76 (2005) 227–233

	Toxicity grade				
	0	1	2	3	4
Nausea*					
IMRT alone	24	33	38	5	0
Concurrent cisplatin	2	22	58	18	0
Vomiting**					
IMRT alone	63	16	18	3	0
Concurrent cisplatin	32	18	38	12	0

IMRT = intensity-modulated radiation therapy. *Chi-Square test. **Chi-Square test.

In the present study, the risk possibility to develop nausea and vomiting in more than 90%, between 60 and 90, 30 and 59%, and less than 30% of patients, respectively.

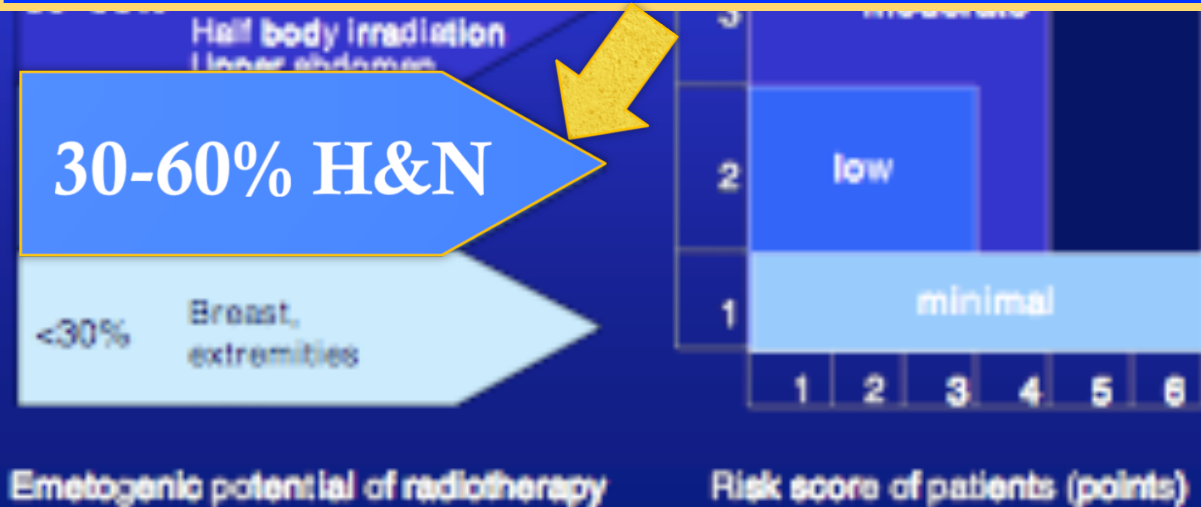
Radiotherapy & Oncology

si^a,
2004

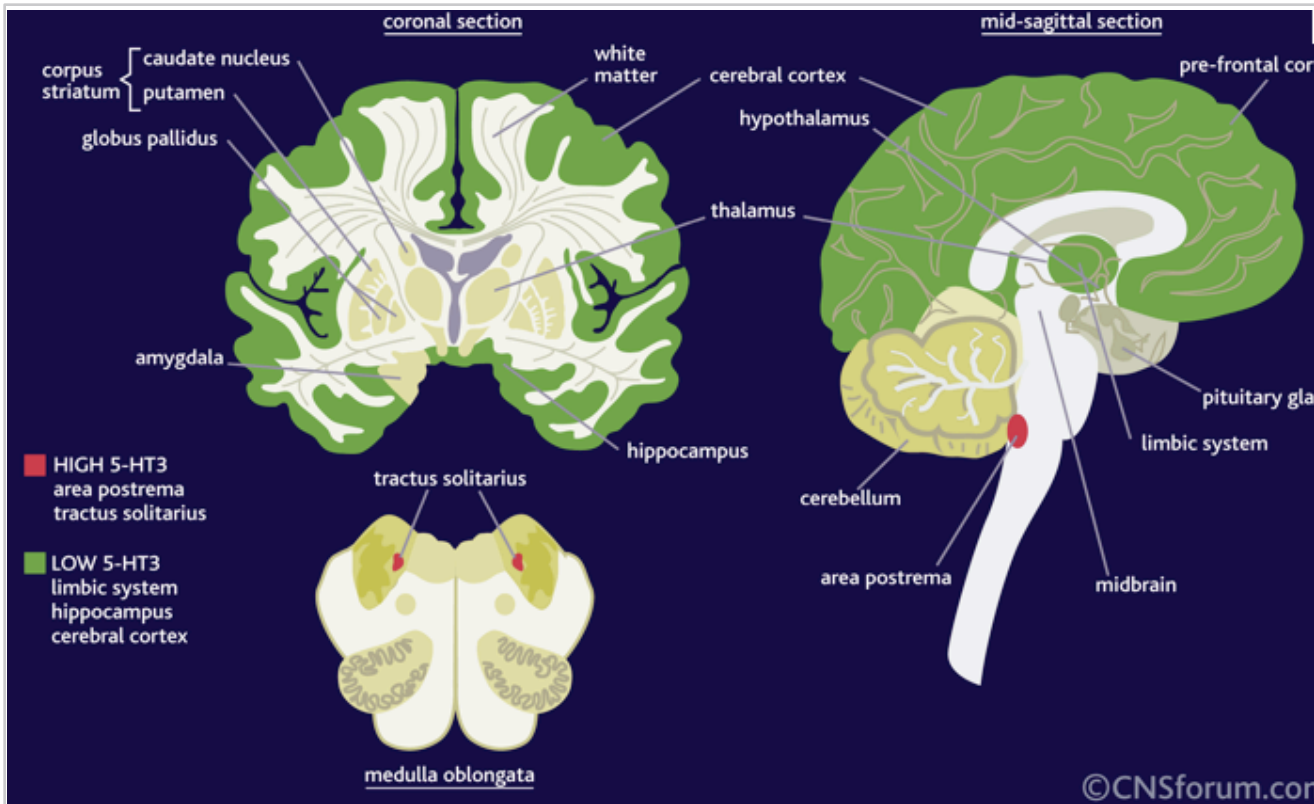
S
1,

Risk Stratification in RINV

a prophylaxis or a rescue therapy with a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist is recommended



Feyer PC et al., 'Radiotherapy-induced Nausea and Vomiting (RINV): MASCC/ESMO Guideline for Antiemetics in Radiotherapy: Update 2009', *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 19 (2010), 5-14



The area postrema (AP), a chemoreceptor trigger zone for vomiting (emesis), is located on the dorsal surface of the medulla oblongata at the caudal end of the fourth ventricle.

The role of the AP in radiation-induced vomiting remains controversial. Electrophysiological studies have reported that neurons in the AP increase their firing in response to emetic drugs.

Miller AD, Leslie RA. *Front Neuroendocrinol* 1994;15:301–320.



EFFECT OF BRAIN STEM AND DORSAL VAGUS COMPLEX DOSIMETRY ON NAUSEA AND VOMITING IN HEAD AND NECK INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIATION THERAPY

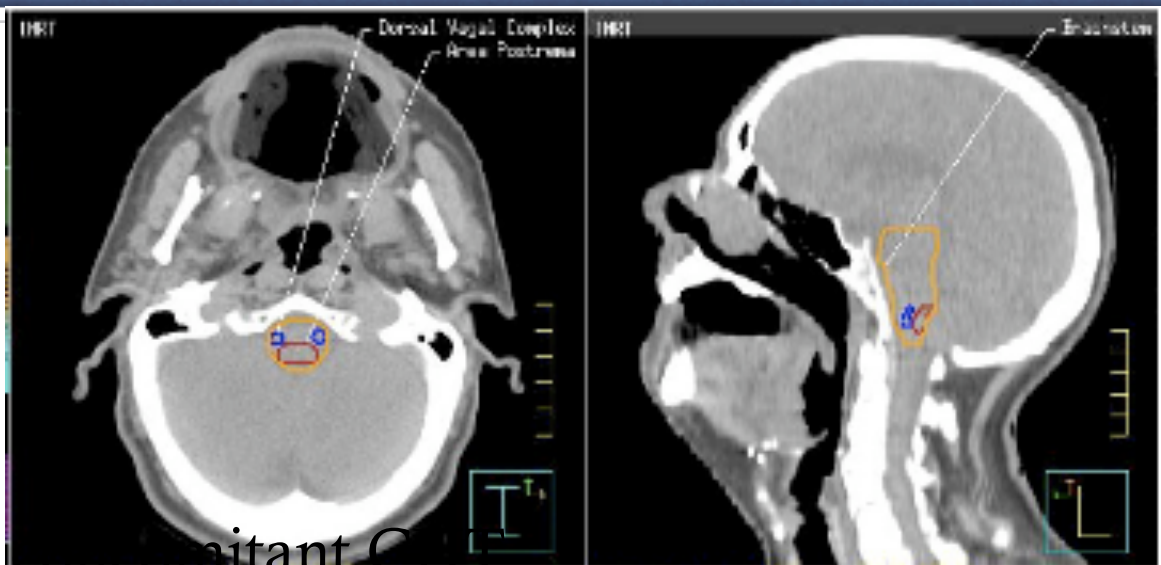
KATHERINE CIURA, B.A., R.T. (T), MICHELLE MCBURNEY, B.S., R.T. (R)(T),
BAONGOC NGUYEN, A.S., MARY PHAM, B.S., NEAL REBUENO, CMD,
CLIFTON D. FULLER, M.D., NANDITA GUHA-THAKURTA, M.D., and
DAVID I. ROSENTHAL, M.D.

School of Health Sciences, Medical Dosimetry Program, Department of Radiation Oncology, and Department of
Diagnostic Radiology, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston; and Department of
Radiation Oncology, The University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX

Ciura K et al. *Medical Dosimetry*, Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 41-45, 2011

Brain stem doses well below traditionally accepted tolerance levels are associated with nausea and vomiting (NV).

The area postrema (AP) in the medulla oblongata and the dorsal vagus nucleus have been linked to radiation-induced NV.



- ✓ 100 pts with IMRT. 51 concomitant CRT.
NV developed around week 2 of treatment, indicating a possible **15–25 Gy** dose correlation to toxicity.
- ✓ Limited sample size for RT/chemoRT groups makes difficult to make conclusions.
- ✓ Mean brainstem dose emerges as a key parameter of interest
- ✓ No one dose parameter (mean/median/ EUD) best correlated with NV

ALOPECIA

Alopecia of the scalp
when maximum occipital scalp doses was

> 30 Gy (48%; 21 of 43 cases) vs.

< 30 Gy (19%; 3 of 13 cases)



ACUTE MUCOSITIS



structure, the anterior oral volume often receives 35–40 Gy, and additional focal “hot spots” may exacerbate mucositis.



Anterior oral cavity mucositis (Grade >1) was found to be more prevalent when anterior or lateral mandible maximum voxel doses were **> 33.5 Gy**,

7 of 26 (26%) patients receiving that dose experiencing detectable anterior mucositis
1 of 31 patients (3%) receiving < 33.5 Gy.

122 Dosimetric Correlation of Oral Cavity Dose with Acute Mucositis in Patients Treated with Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and Chemotherapy

J.E. Shogan,² A.K. Bhatnagar,¹ D.E. Heron,¹ R.P. Smith,¹ R.S. Andrede,¹ M.S. Huq,¹ J.N. Yue,¹ G. Ross,¹ M. Sontag,³ R. Lalonde,³ A.E. Quinn¹

¹Radiation Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, ²Medical Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, ³D3 Radiation Planning, LP, Pittsburgh, PA

Correlation Analysis of Percent Volume of Oral Cavity Receiving More Than 15,30,40,45,50 Gy with Grade of Acute Oral Mucositis

Variable	Correlation Coefficient (Spearman Rho)	p value
V15	0.349	0.005
V30	0.301	0.016
V40	0.316	0.012
V45	0.328	0.009
V50	0.240	0.060

There was a statistically significant correlation between acute mucositis grade ($p < 0.05$) and the V15, 30,40,45



PROSPECTIVE EVALUATION TO ESTABLISH A DOSE RESPONSE FOR CLINICAL ORAL MUCOSITIS IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING HEAD-AND-NECK CONFORMAL RADIOTHERAPY

SAMIR NARAYAN, M.D.,* JOERG LEHMANN, PH.D.,* MATTHEW A. COLEMAN, PH.D.,[†]
ANDREW VAUGHAN, PH.D.,* CLAUS CHUNLI YANG, PH.D.,* DANNY ENEPEKIDES, M.D.,[‡]
GREGORY FARWELL, M.D.,[‡] JAMES A. PURDY, PH.D.,* GRACE LAREDO, PH.D.,* KERRY NOLAN, A.S.,[†]
FRANCESCA S. PEARSON, B.S.,[†] AND SRINIVASAN VIJAYAKUMAR, M.D.*

*Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA; [†]Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA; and [‡]Department of Otolaryngology, University of California Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, CA

Prospective. 12 patients, 4 sites in oral cavity, MOSFET dosimeters and Eclipse dose distributions.

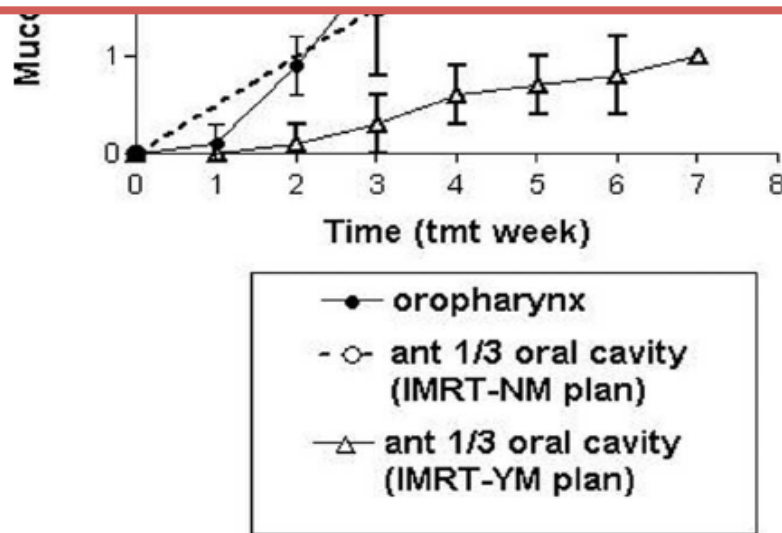
Outcome: Point dose >39.1 Gy resulted in mucositis 3+ weeks. Point dose <32 Gy resulted in mild (\leq G1) mucositis for \leq 1 week

Conclusion: Dose **<32 Gy** minimal acute mucositis, dose >39 Gy longer duration of mucositis

2303 Is it Feasible to Spare Part of the Mucosa with IMRT and Does It Matter

G. Sanguineti,¹ M. Sosa,¹ L. Culp,¹ E. Endres,² J. Bayouth²

¹Radiation Oncology, UTMB, Galveston, TX, ²Physics, UTMB, Galveston, TX



Reducing the dose to part of the 'mucosa' volume for early stage oropharyngeal cancer is dosimetrically feasible while meeting the other dose objectives.

Such a **dosimetric improvement** in such a critical location translates into a **clinically detectable benefit** (IMRT-YM was able to keep mucositis in the anterior part of the oral cavity within grade 1 or enanthema in 18/19 patients).

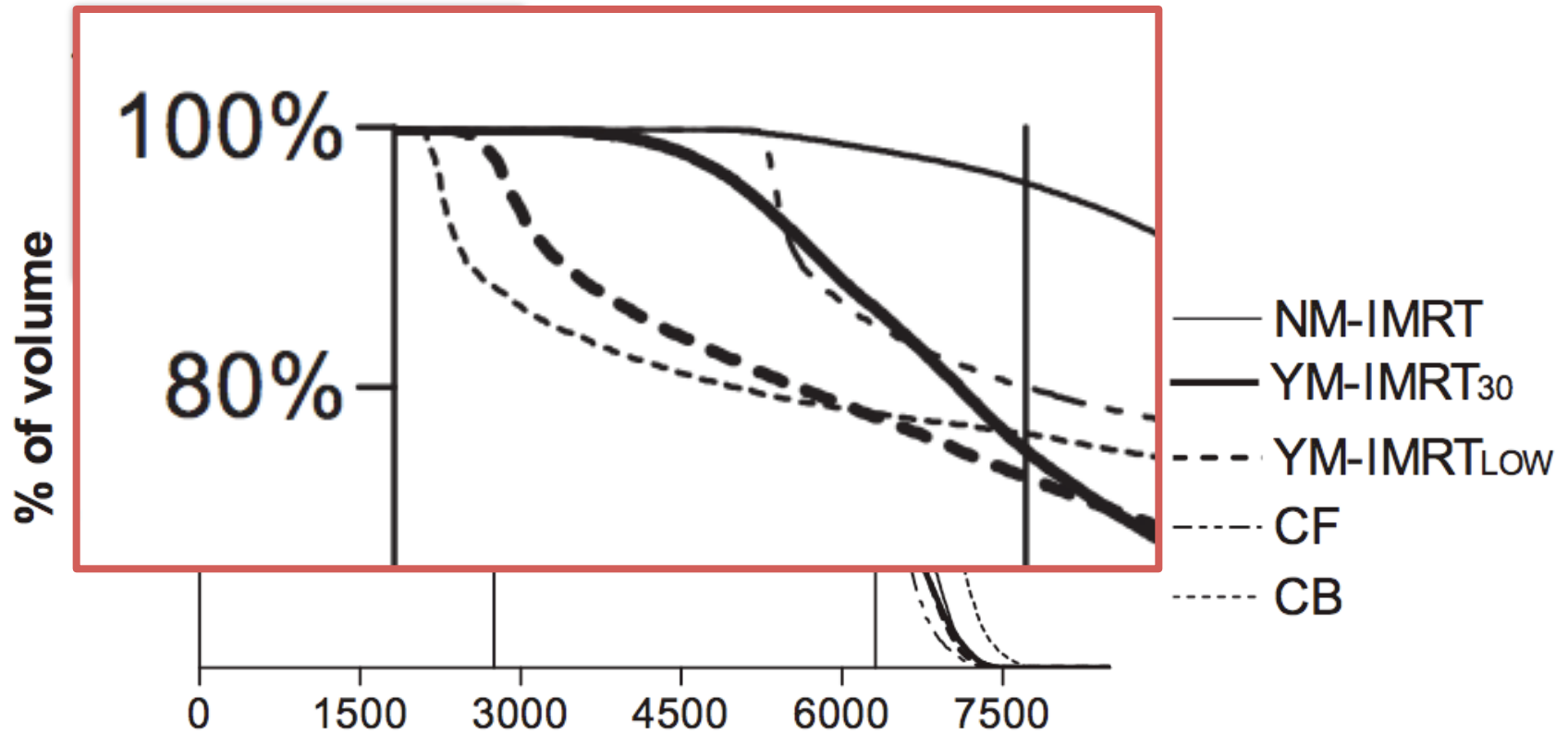
Sanguineti G, et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2004;60:S517-S518.

**IS THERE A “MUCOSA-SPARING” BENEFIT OF IMRT FOR
HEAD-AND-NECK CANCER?**

GIUSEPPE SANGUINETI, M.D.,* EUGENE J. ENDRES, C.M.D.,† BRANDON G. GUNN, M.D.,*
AND BRENT PARKER, PH.D.†

Departments of *Radiation Oncology and †Medical Physics, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

- 1) no dose objective
- 2) a 30-Gy maximum dose objective on the portion of the mucosa outside any PTV.
- 3) expanding PTV54 concentrically by 8, 15, 20, and 30 mm. On the portion of the mucosa volume overlapping with any of these rings, a maximum dose objective of 40 Gy, 26 Gy, 16 Gy, and 6 Gy was placed for the 8-mm, 15-mm, 20-mm, and 30-mm expansion, respectively. This approach allows us to **minimize the dose in the mucosa volume outside any PTV by forcing the high-dose region within the PTVs.**



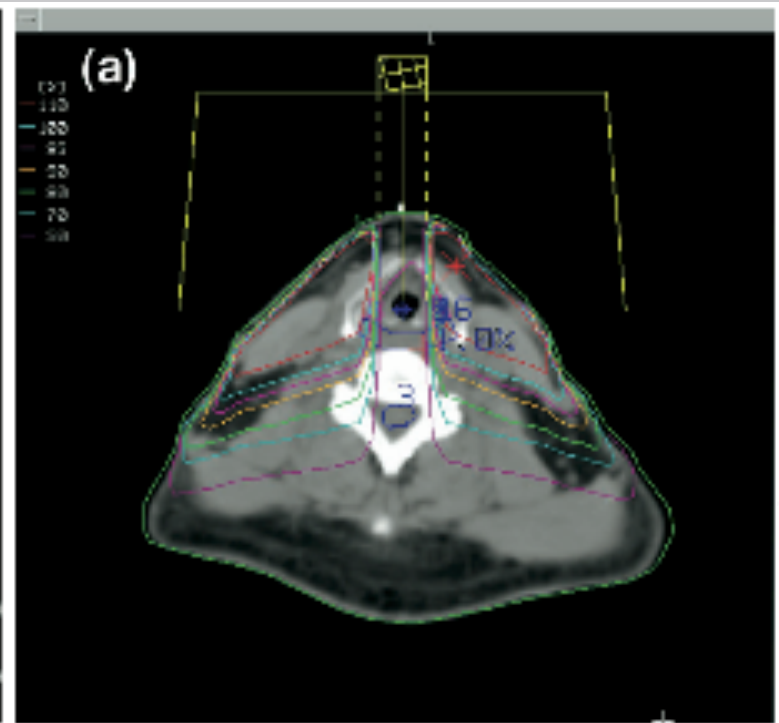
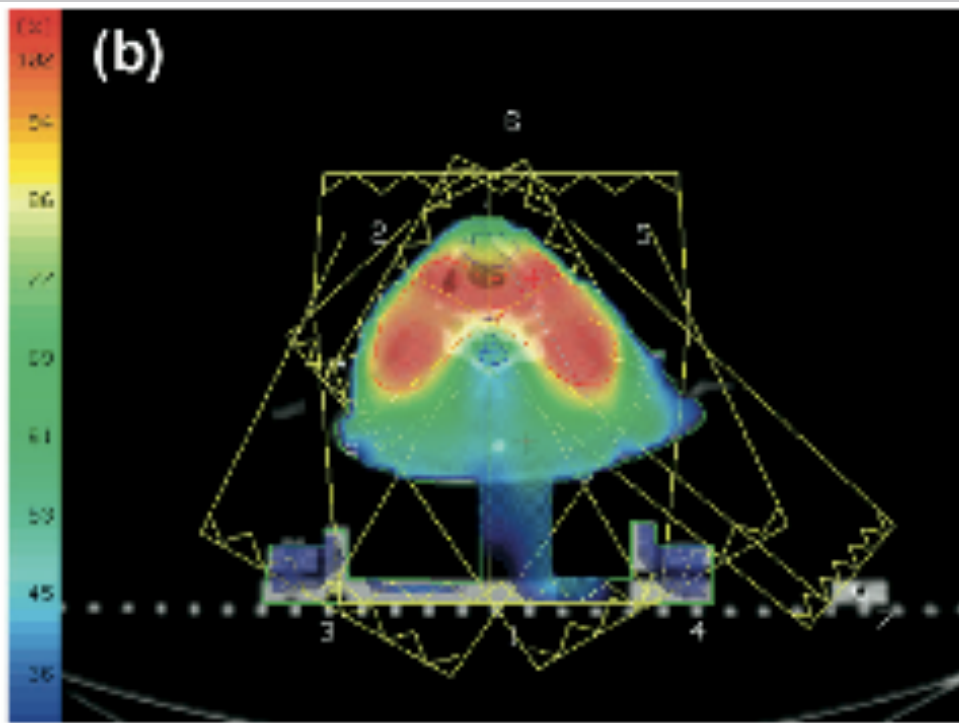
- ✓ NM-IMRT results in a significantly larger amount of mucosa exposed to clinically relevant doses over CF.
- ✓ Improvement of mucositis rate over 3FT is strictly correlated with the amount of mucosa that does not overlap with any PTV. Therefore, primary tumor size are expected to have a role in this.

DYSPHAGIA

TSIEN F. FUA, M.B., B.S.,* JUNE CORRY, F.R.A.N.Z.C.R.,* ALVIN D. MILNER, PH.D.,[†]
JIM CRAMB, M.Sc.,[‡] SUE F. WALSHAM, M.App.Sc.(RT),* AND LESTER J. PETERS, F.R.A.N.Z.C.R.*

Departments of *Radiation Oncology, [†]Biostatistics and Clinical Trials, and [‡]Physical Sciences, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre,
East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

“IMRT could lead to significantly higher rates of dysphagia and prolonged feeding tube requirement than seen with the 3D-CRT technique if appropriate dose constraints for the cervical esophagus, for example, are not used.”



- ✓ The mean pharyngo-esophageal axis dose was 55.2 Gy in the WF-IMRT group and 27.2 Gy in the j-IMRT group. ($p = 0.001$).
- ✓ **G3 dysphagia** was 95% (19/20) in the WF-IMRT group and 63% (5/8) in the j-IMRT group. ($p = 0.058$).
- ✓ **The median duration of a feeding tube** was significantly shorter for the j-IMRT group compared with the WF-IMRT group, 6 days (range, 0 –119 days) compared with 38 days (range, 0 –341 days) respectively ($p = 0.037$).



CHEMO-IMRT OF OROPHARYNGEAL CANCER AIMING TO REDUCE DYSPHAGIA: SWALLOWING ORGANS LATE COMPLICATION PROBABILITIES AND DOSIMETRIC CORRELATES

AVRAHAM EISBRUCH, M.D.,* HYUNGIN M. KIM, Sc.D.,† FELIX Y. FENG, M.D.,* TERESA H. LYDEN, M.A.,‡
MARC J. HAXER, M.A.,‡ MARY. FENG, M.D.,* FRANK P. WORDEN, M.D.,§ CAROL R. BRADFORD, M.D.,¶
MARK E. PRINCE, M.D.,¶ JEFFREY S. MOYER, M.D.,¶ GREGORY T. WOLF, M.D.,¶
DOUGLAS B. CHEPEHA, M.D.,¶ AND RANDALL K. TEN HAKEN, Ph.D.*

*Departments of Radiation Oncology, †Biostatistics, ‡Speech-Language Pathology, §Hematology-Oncology, and
¶Otorhinolaryngology-Head-Neck Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

✓ Difference in the dose–effect relationships between the objective VF-based assessments of dysphagia and patient-reported worsening of dysphagia, the former having substantially lower TD50 compared with the latter.

✓ **What is the reason for the different dose-effect relationships of patient-reported and objective, VF-based dysphagia?**

- Silent aspirations
- Shifting over time of patient-reported outcomes representing either a true improvement or an accommodation to their new functional status, termed “response shift”.

✓ **Which dosimetric measure should be used as a constraint or an objective for IMRT plans in efforts to reduce dysphagia?**

High correlations between the mean doses and the VDs, making the VDs redundant.

✓ **What are the mean doses which should guide IMRT planning?**

The **mean PC doses** above which the risk of dysphagia increases significantly range in various studies **between 45–60 Gy** (Gluck I Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2010 July 1; 77(3): 727–733)

The doses we have found in the current study (73 pts) regarding VF-assessed swallow dysfunction were **TD50 and TD25 of 63 Gy and 56 Gy**, respectively, for the **PCs**, and **56 Gy and 39 Gy**, respectively, for the **GSL**, whereas the corresponding TDs for significant patient-reported worsening of swallow were substantially higher.

VF-based TD25 as goals for optimization would be reasonable

✓ **Which are the reasons for the differences in the dose – effect relationships between the different published series?**

- inclusion of patients receiving RT alone
- different assessments of dysphagia in different series: aspiration and objective imaging, feeding tube dependency, patient-reported dysphagia, strictures, or observer-reported such as RTOG, CTCAE, or PS Scale
- retrospective analysis
- exclusion of pretreatment data on dysphagia
- different methods to delineate the organs (for example, drawing the PCs anatomically, results in different mean doses compared with drawing only the posterior pharyngeal wall, without differences in the IMRT plans and dose distributions).

	Patients, n	Site	Dysphagia endpoint	Dosimetric factors correlated with dysphagia
Feng (2007) ⁶⁷	36	OP/NP	Videofluoroscopy	Pharyngeal constrictor muscles (mean dose, V50, V60, V65) and larynx (mean dose, V50)
Levendag (2007) ⁶⁸	56	OP	HNSW	Superior and middle pharyngeal constrictor muscles (mean dose)
Jensen				
Tegul				
Tegul				
Caglia				
Caud				
Dirix				

OP=oral cavity; NP=nasopharynx; HNSW=HNSW swallowing symptom score; FEES=fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing; All=all subsites. D60=minimum dose received by 60% of a structure. V70=volume of a structure receiving ≥ 70 Gy.

Table 3: Overview of studies assessing crucial structures for late dysphagia

the best approach consists of keeping the radiation dose to these structures as low as possible.

Both the **mean dose** to the pharyngeal constrictor muscles and the larynx, as well as the **volume of structures receiving 50–60 Gy**, have been shown to be **significantly correlated** with the occurrence of late dysphagia.

However, no clear dose or volume constraints can yet be proposed.

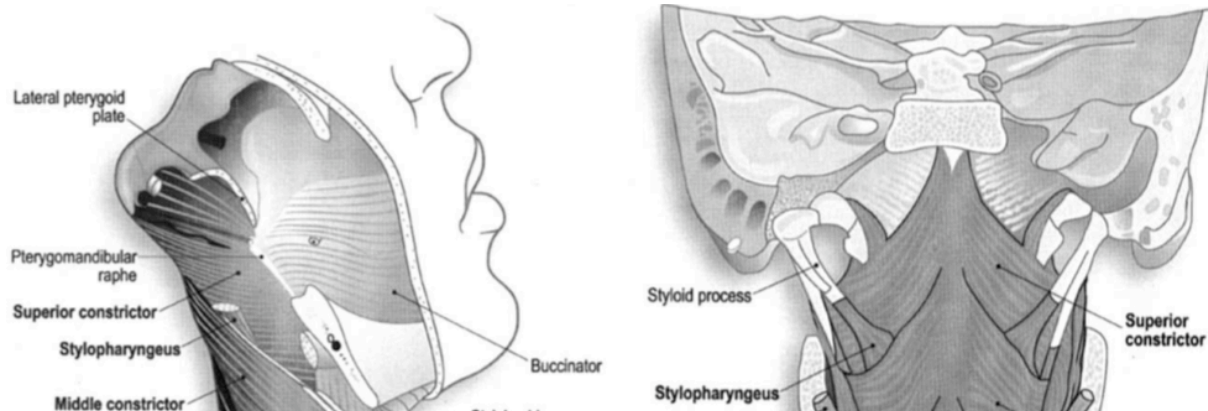
Dirix P. Evidence-based organ-sparing radiotherapy in head and neck cancer
Lancet Oncol 2010; 11: 85–91

✓ Which are most important: the dose to the SPC, IPC, or larynx in determining dysphagia?

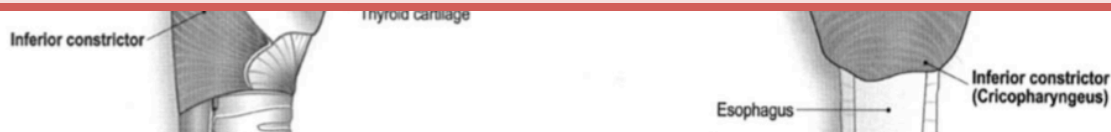
it depends on where the primary tumor is!!

In oropharyngeal cancer SCP has the highest p value

In larynx cancer, doses to the IPC or the larynx are most significantly correlated with dysphagia



any effort should be made to spare all the swallowing structures, **when possible.**



**TREATMENT TECHNIQUES AND SITE CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING
DYSPHAGIA-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN CANCER OF THE OROPHARYNX
AND NASOPHARYNX**

DAVID N. TEGUH, M.D.,* PETER C. LEVENDAG, M.D., PH.D.,* INGE NOEVER, R.T.T.,* PETER VAN ROOIJ, M.Sc.,* PETER VOET, R.T.T.,* HENRIE VAN DER EST, R.T.T.,* DICK SIPKEMA, R.T.T.,* ANIEL SEWNAIK, M.D., PH.D.,† ROBERT JAN BAATENBURG DE JONG, M.D., PH.D.,† DANIEL DE LA BIJE, R.T.T.,* AND PAUL I. M. SCHMITZ, PH.D.‡

Departments of *Radiation Oncology, †Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, and ‡Biostatistics, Erasmus Medical Center - Daniel den Hoed, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

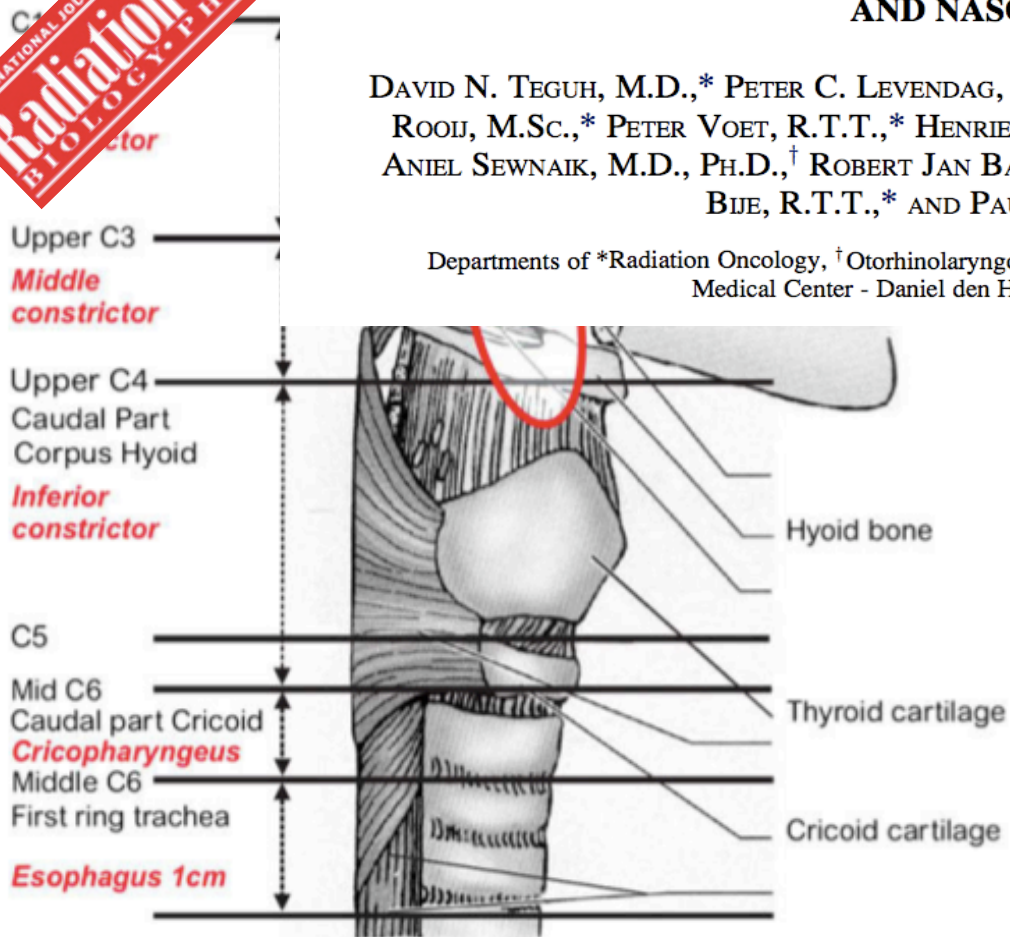
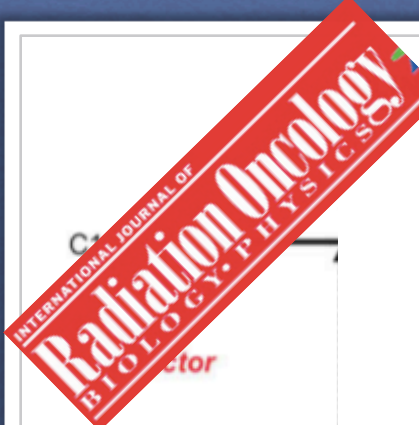


Fig. 2. Schematic diagram of the delineated five muscular structures considered of paramount importance in swallowing.

receive the highest dose because of the treatment techniques used, dysphagia is still less as opposed to patients with cancer of the BOT. The explanation of this phenomenon remains somewhat unclear; it is speculated that this might have to do with the infiltrative (muscles) nature of the BOT cancers.



BRACHIAL PLEXUS

A M Chen, MD¹, W H Hall, MD¹, B-Q Li, MD, PhD¹, M Guiou, MD, PhD¹, C Wright, CMD¹,
M Mathai, CMD¹, A Dublin, MD² and J A Purdy, PhD¹

¹ Departments of Radiation Oncology and , University of California Davis Cancer Center, Sacramento, CA

Dose to the brachial plexus is significantly increased among patients with IMRT compared to CRT for head and neck cancer.

Mean irradiated volumes of the brachial plexus using IMRT vs CRT:

V50 (18±5 ml) vs (11±6 ml), $p = 0.01$;

V60 (6±4 ml) vs (3±3 ml), $p = 0.02$;

V66 (3±1 ml) vs (1±1 ml), $p = 0.04$,

V70 (0±1 ml) vs (0±1 ml), $p = 0.68$.

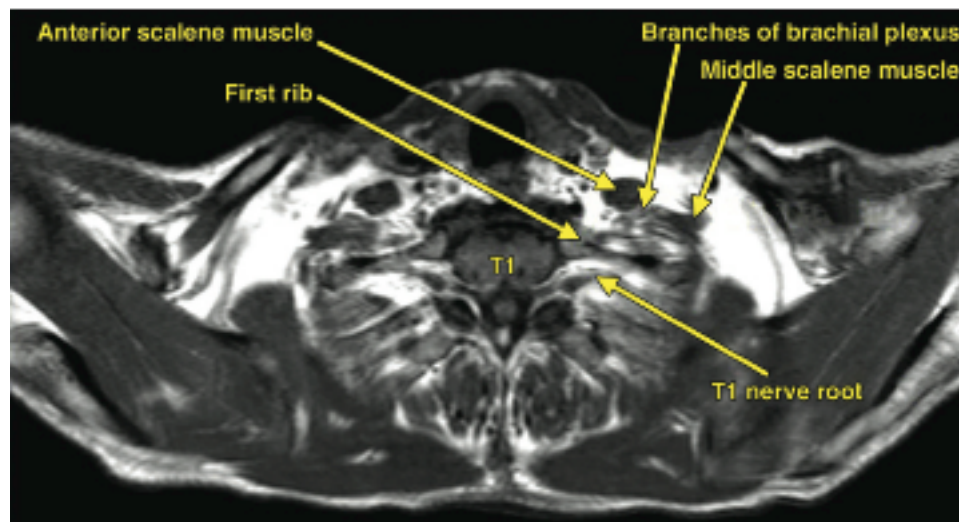
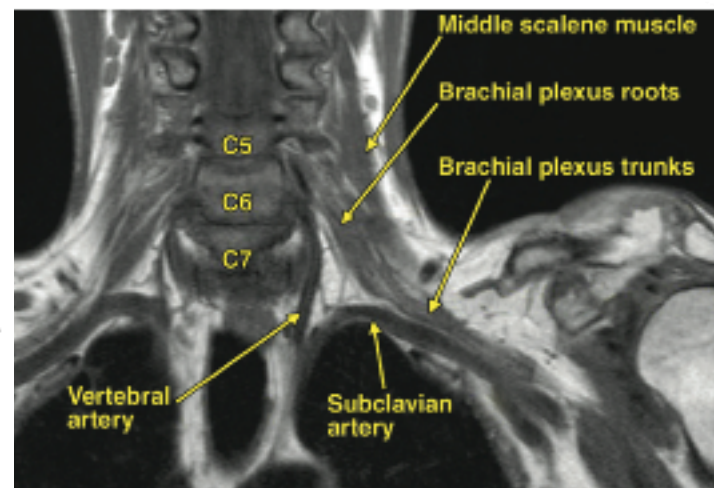
The maximum point dose to the brachial plexus was 68.9 Gy and 66.1 Gy for the IMRT and CRT plans, respectively ($p = 0.01$).

Brachial Plexus Contouring with CT and MR Imaging in Radiation Therapy Planning for Head and Neck Cancer¹

TEACHING POINTS

See last page

*Minh Tam Truong, MD • Rohini N. Nadgir, MD • Ariel E. Hirsch, MD
Rathan M. Subramaniam, MD, PhD • Jimmy W. Wang, MD • Rebecca Wu, MD • Melin Khandekar, MD, PhD • A. Omer Nawaz, MS • Osamu Sakai, MD, PhD*



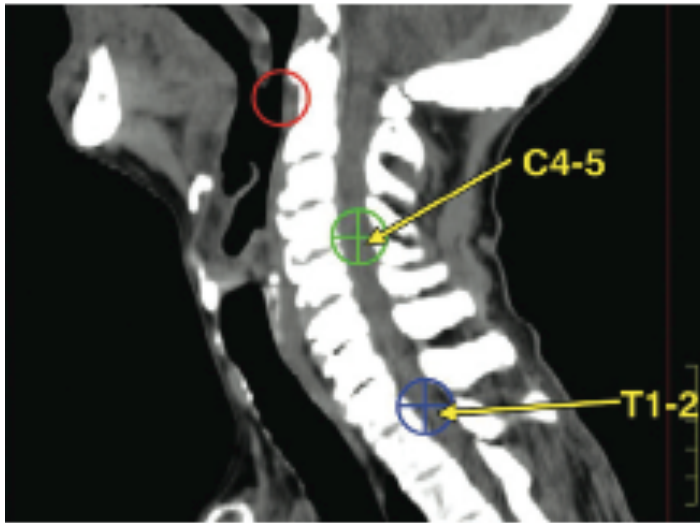
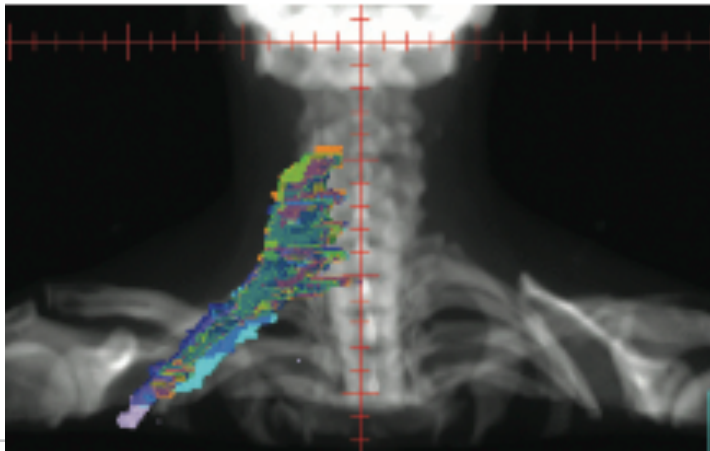


Figure 4. Sagittal CT scan depicts the interspaces between the C4–5 (circled in green) and T1–2 (circled in blue) vertebral bodies, thereby helping identify the upper and lower limits of the brachial plexus for contouring. Red circle = treatment isocenter.

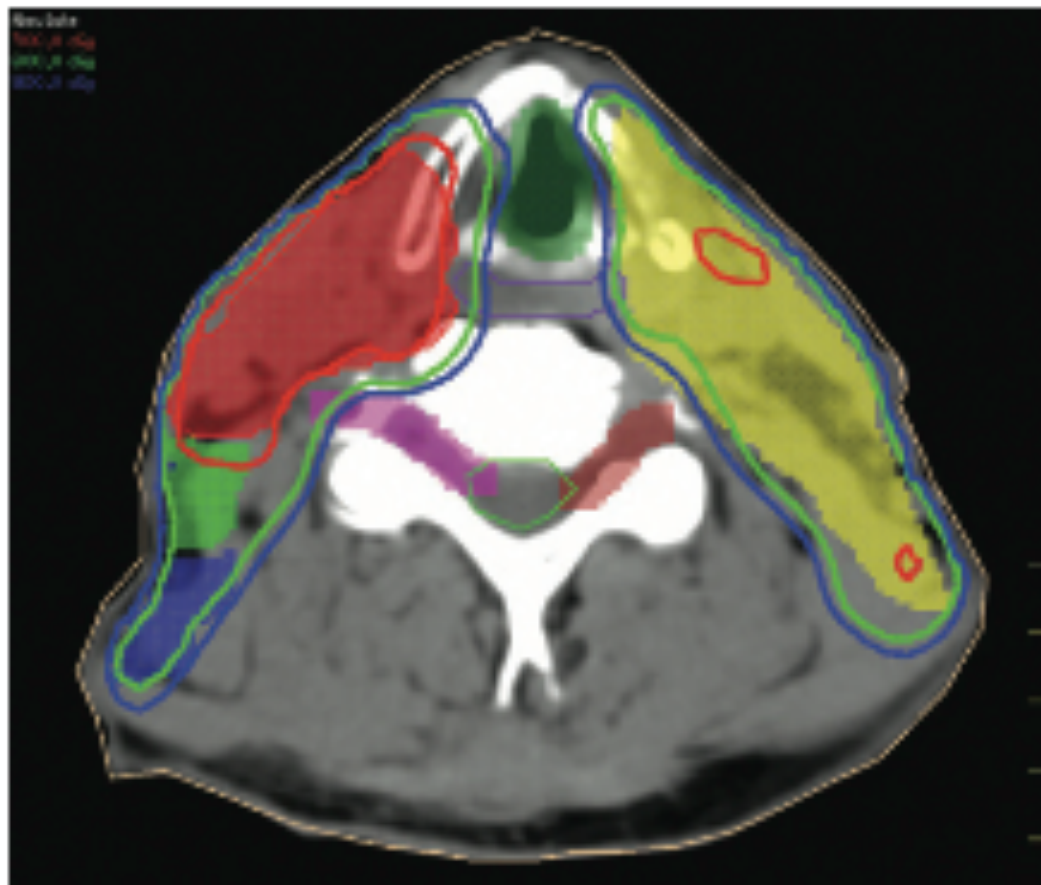


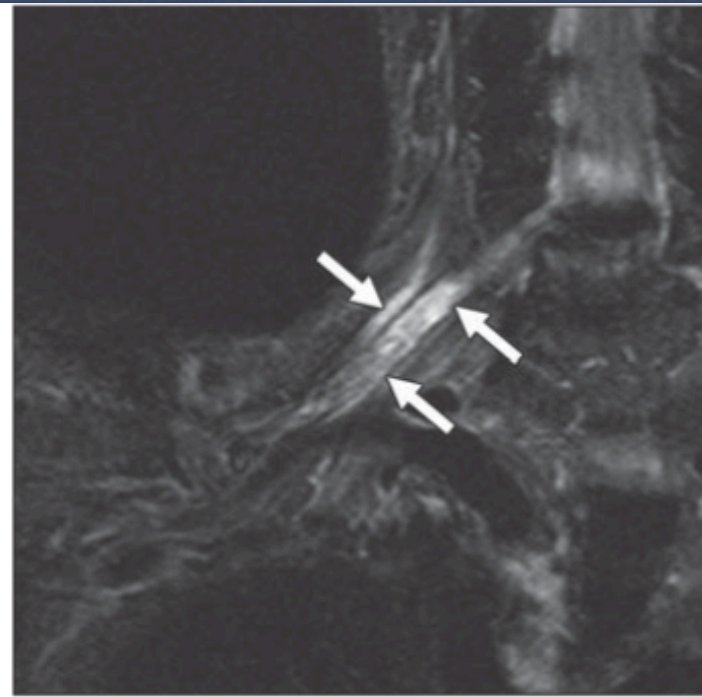
1. Identify the C4–5 and T1–2 neural foramina at sagittal planning CT to determine the upper and lower limits of the brachial plexus.
2. Contour the ventral rami of C5-T1 as they exit through the intervertebral neural foramina as seen at axial CT.
3. Contour the trunks of the brachial plexus between the anterior and middle scalene muscles.
4. Follow the insertion of the scalene muscles into the first rib.
5. Contour the brachial plexus divisions, cords, and terminal nerves by following the subclavian artery into the axilla.

Preliminary studies on brachial plexus-sparing IMRT are in progress.

The **maximum dose to the brachial plexus** should be limited to **60 Gy** for the diseased portion of the neck, and to **54 Gy** for the uninvolved portion.

If a lymph node is present at level IV and the supraclavicular area, it may be challenging to avoid limiting the radiation dose to the terminal branches of the brachial plexus to 60 Gy. In such case **avoiding hot spots** in BP is a priority.





60-year-old man with radiation plexopathy 5 years after chemoradiation for right tonsillar squamous cell carcinoma with nodal metastases. Patient had 6-month history of progressive arm weakness and numbness.

A, Coronal enhanced fat-saturated T1 image shows marked enhancement and thickening of multiple roots of right brachial plexus (arrows)

B, Coronal fat-saturated T2 image obtained as part of neurography examination shows markedly hyperintense and smoothly expanded nerve roots (arrows).

Brachial Plexus RT Tolerance

Three distinct syndromes

- 1) Transient neuropathy
- 2) Classic, delayed, progressive fibrosis (unlikely to occur <60 Gy)
- 3) Acute ischemic plexopathy

- Dose constraints
 - RTOG 0236 (SBRT): 24/3
 - RTOG 0412 (RT+chemo): 60/30
 - RTOG 0435 (RT+chemo): 60/30
 - RTOG 0522 (RT+chemo): 60/30
 - RTOG 0615 (RT+chemo): 66/33
 - RTOG 0617 (RT+chemo): 66/33



ACUTE SKIN TOXICITY

I.D.,

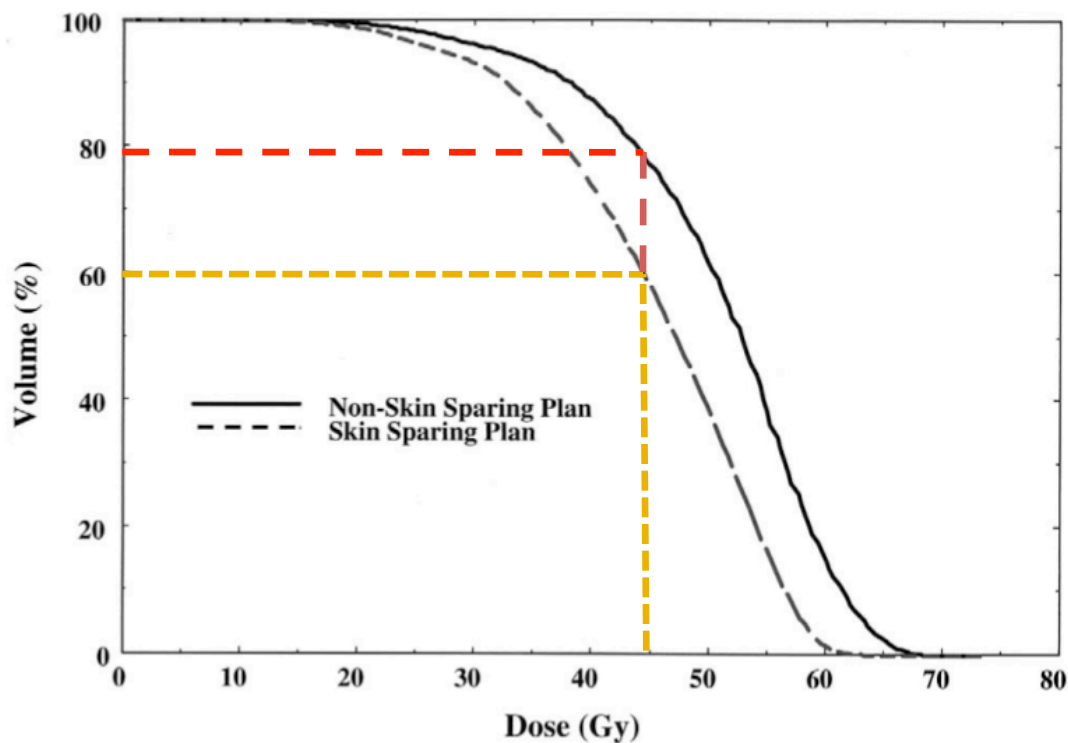
PAM AKAZAWA, C.M.D., LYNN J. VERHEY, PH.D., AND PING XIA, PH.D.

Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California, San Francisco, Medical Center, San Francisco, CA

- ✓ The average dose increase was about 18% owing to the bolus effect of the mask.
- ✓ Multiple tangential fields used in IMRT plans contributed to an increase in skin dose by about 19% and 27%, with and without the mask, respectively.
- ✓ If the skin of the neck was contoured as a sensitive structure for dose optimization, the volume of skin that received >45 Gy was further reduced by about 20%.



$\Delta 20\%$



- ✓ To reduce the skin toxicity, at simulation, the mask should be stretched firmly toward the patient's feet to thin the polystyrene in the targeted area to minimize the bolus effect the mask contributed to the skin.
- ✓ At the time of treatment planning, if the grossly enlarged neck nodes do not involve the skin, the neck skin has to be excluded from the target volume.
- ✓ The skin has to be identified as a "sensitive structure" in the planning system, keeping the **dose constraint at 55 Gy**.

CONE-BEAM CT ASSESSMENT OF INTERFRACTION AND INTRAFRACTION SETUP ERROR OF TWO HEAD-AND-NECK CANCER THERMOPLASTIC MASKS

MICHAEL VELEC, B.Sc.,* JOHN N. WALDRON, M.D.,*† BRIAN O'SULLIVAN, M.D.,*†
ANDREW BAYLEY, M.D.,*† BERNARD CUMMINGS, M.B.,*† JOHN J. KIM, M.D.,*† JOLIE RINGASH, M.D.,*†
STEPHEN L. BREEN, PH.D.,*† GINA A. LOCKWOOD, M.MATH.,‡ AND LAURA A. DAWSON, M.D.*†

*Radiation Medicine Program and †Department of Biostatistics, Princess Margaret Hospital, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and ‡Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Randomized. 762 CBCT scans in 20 patients. Arm 1) standard mask (SM) vs Arm 2) skin-sparing mask (SSM) modified with low neck cutout



Table 4. Highest-graded acute skin toxicity during and up to 3 months after radiotherapy

RTOG grade	SM [No. (%)]	SSM [No. (%)]
0	0	0
1	5 (45.5)	6 (66.7)
2	4 (36.4)	3 (33.3)
3	2 (18.2)	0

Abbreviation: RTOG = Radiation Therapy Oncology Group; SM = standard mask; SSM = skin-sparing mask.

There were no significant changes in interfraction and intrafraction setup errors in head-and-neck cancer patients randomized to treatment with thermoplastic SSMs (skin-sparing masks) vs. SMs (standard masks), as evaluated with daily CBCT.

On the basis of the results of this study, cutout masks are being recommended for all of our head-and-neck cancer patients treated with IMRT and daily CBCT IGRT.



THE

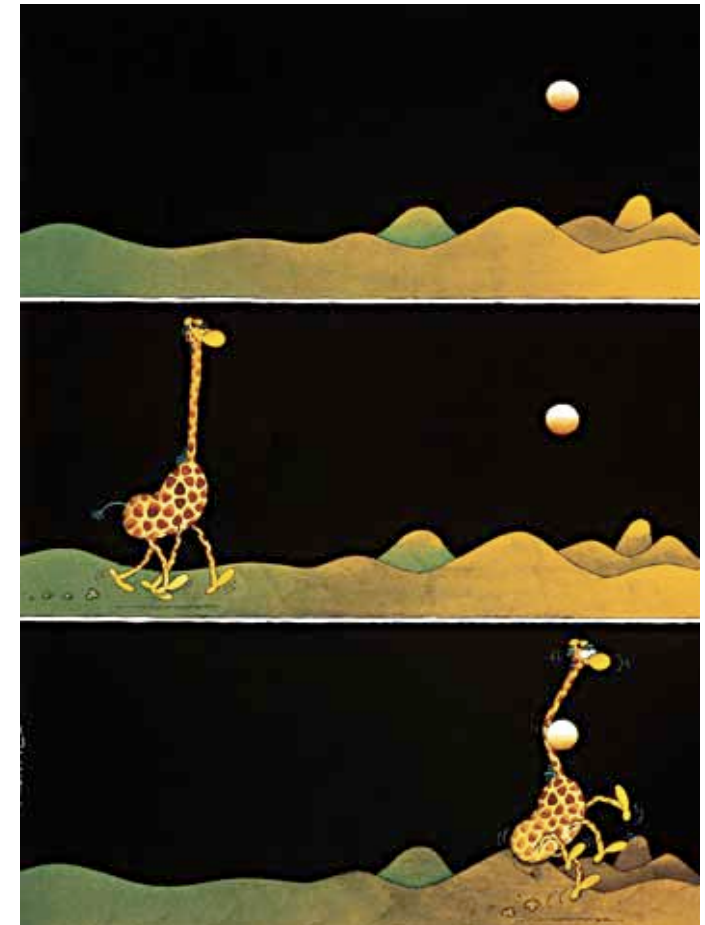
HYPOTHYROIDISM

BENEDETTA FRANCHI, M.D.,* ALBERTO D'ONOFRIO, SC.D.,† VALERIA PIAZZI, M.SC.,*
ELENA RONDI, M.Sc.,§ MARIO CIOCCA, M.Sc.,§ BIANCA GIBELLI, M.D.,|| ENRICA GROSSO, M.D.,||
NICOLETTA TRADATI, M.D.,|| LUIGI MARIANI, M.D., PH.D.,¶ GENOVEVA IONELA BOBOC, M.D.,*
AND ROBERTO ORECCHIA, M.D.*†

Studies evaluating dose–volume relationship to thyroid injury are scattered and controversial.

There seems to be a role for sex and **volume** of thyroid irradiated as risk factor for hypothyroidism.

EMAMI 1991: if the entire thyroid volume is irradiated, the 5-year risk of clinical hypothyroidism is estimated to be **8% with 45 Gy; 13% with 60 Gy; and 35% with 70 Gy**





HYPOTHYROIDISM AS A CONSEQUENCE OF INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIOTHERAPY WITH CONCURRENT TAXANE-BASED CHEMOTHERAPY FOR LOCALLY ADVANCED HEAD-AND-NECK CANCER

ROBERTO DIAZ, M.D., PH.D.,* JERRY J. JABOIN, M.D., PH.D.,* MANUEL MORALES-PALIZA, PH.D.,* ELIZABETH KOEHLER, M.S.,† JOHN G. PHILLIPS, B.S.,* SCOTT STINSON, B.S.,* JILL GILBERT, M.D.,‡ CHRISTINE H. CHUNG, M.D.,‡ BARBARA A. MURPHY, M.D.,‡ WENDELL G. YARBROUGH, M.D.,§ PATRICK B. MURPHY, M.D.,|| YU SHYR, PH.D.,† AND ANTHONY J. CMELAK, M.D.*

*Department of Radiation Oncology, †Division of Cancer Biostatistics, Department of Biostatistics, ‡Section of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, and §Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN; and ||Tennessee Oncology, Franklin, TN

Sixty-one of 128 evaluable patients (47.7%) developed hypothyroidism after a median of 1.08 years after IMRT (range, 2.4 months to 3.9 years), suggesting a **shorter latency** with IMRT when compared with a median of 1.4–1.8 years (range, 0.3–7.2 years) in two of the largest studies of patients treated with conventional radiotherapy.

Age and **volume** of irradiated thyroid were associated with hypothyroidism development after IMRT

Compared with 3D-RT, **IMRT with no thyroid dose constraints** resulted in significantly **higher minimum, maximum, and median dose** ($p < 0.0001$) and percentage thyroid volume receiving 10, 20, and 60 Gy ($p < 0.05$).

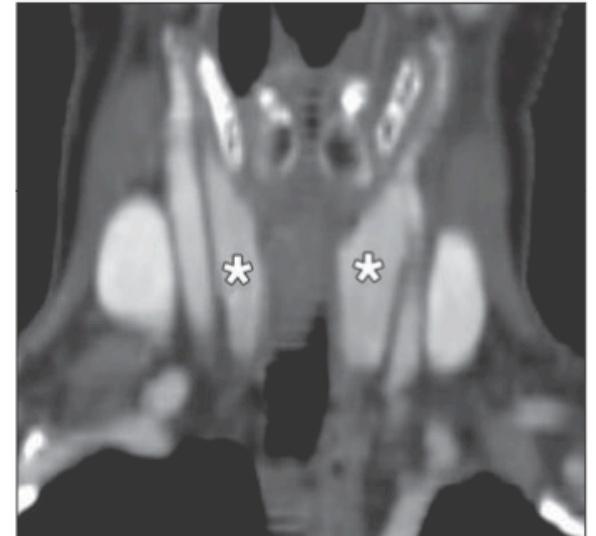
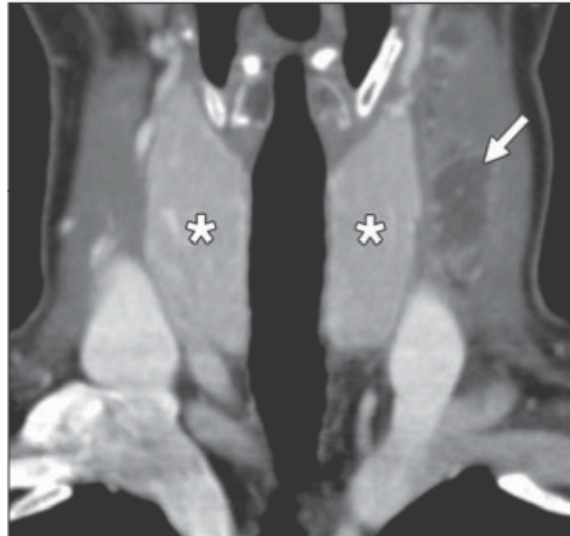
Compared with 3D-RT, **IMRT with thyroid dose constraints** resulted in **lower median dose** and percentage thyroid volume receiving 30, 40, and 50 Gy ($p < 0.005$) **but higher minimum and maximum dose** ($p < 0.005$).



Fig. 3—35-year-old woman with supraglottic laryngeal squamous cell carcinoma and radiation-induced atrophy of thyroid gland.

A, Coronal reformation enhanced CT image shows irregular, necrotic left level 3 nodal mass (*arrow*) and normal contour and enhancement of thyroid gland (*asterisks*).

B, Coronal reformation enhanced CT image obtained 2 years after chemoradiation shows resolution of adenopathy but diffuse atrophy of thyroid gland (*asterisks*), which remains homogeneously enhancing. Patient had normal thyroid function test results.



Glastonbury CM et al Am J Roentgenol.2010 Aug;195(2):164-71.

Our results suggest that the **development of hypothyroidism by IMRT is not a deterministic effect**, because we could not detect a specific dose of radiation or volume of thyroid irradiated after which hypothyroidism would irrevocably manifest.

Prospective studies should be conducted to test the **hypothesis that this is a stochastic effect**, in which decreasing the dose and/or volume of radiation to the thyroid would decrease the all-or-none probability of developing hypothyroidism.



**What is not contoured
cannot be given a dose constraint and an
appropriate hierarchical dose-goal rank.**

ASTRO report 2011 on IMRT safety: the report touches up on elements of a “culture of safety” (mutual trust, defined roles and responsibilities, event tracking); technical considerations (training, IMRT system commissioning, QA program); and includes a list of recommendations to safeguard against catastrophic failures in IMRT.

The report suggests use of a “forced time out” to assure adequate time to perform reviews and quality assurance at key points in the process.