



SCHOOL

Course Report

Implementation and Practice of Image-Guided Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy

2 November – 9 December 2021, online

Course directors:

- Matthias Guckenberger, radiation oncologist, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- Dirk Verellen, medical physicist, Iridium Kankernetwerk, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

A report from a clinical oncologist's perspective

Could you please briefly introduce yourself?

My name is Mette Felter. I am a clinical oncologist and a part-time PhD student at Herlev Hospital in Denmark. We follow two clinical protocols that offer a stereotactic radiotherapy (SBRT) strategy to treat patients with oligometastatic disease (OMD). I am also working to integrate use of the magnetic resonance linear accelerator at our institution.

Why did you choose to attend this course?

One of my focus areas is to treat patients with OMD through use of SBRT. Before I started my PhD, I planned the use of conventional radiotherapy for patients and had no experience of SBRT. When I began my PhD, I had to do a lot of research and ask for help from more experienced colleagues in Denmark and Europe. The programme of this course matched perfectly with my research area.

What aspects of the course were the most interesting and why?

The clinical sessions were very interesting for me and the corresponding discussions during the practical sessions covered comprehensively all the difficult parts of the implementation process of image-guided SBRT. It was valuable for me to meet other participants in the practical sessions, and the faculty members created a very stimulating learning environment in which we didn't hesitate to ask questions. It was a good example of a successful online course.

Did the course activities improve your knowledge and skills in the relevant subject?

The teachers were able to link theory with practice in a well-planned way. The systematic coverage of all the main organ sites together with the presentations of the latest publications in the field gave me a solid theoretical foundation. The tutors had extensive practical experience and could pass on important knowledge that you cannot learn on your own.

Did the course meet your expectations? If so, how?

All relevant aspects of SBRT were covered and this has given me confidence to help to evolve the SBRT programme at our institution. This was exactly what I hoped for. The course exceeded my expectations.

List three important 'takeaways' from the course.

Implementation and practice of image-guided SBRT is a multidisciplinary work effort.
We should not underestimate the importance of refining our treatment technique.
Close attention to the dose prescription and margin calculation is worth the effort.

How will what you have learnt be implemented in your daily job/ clinical practice?

At my institution we are initiating a SBRT programme for several organ sites that we have not treated in this way before. Two colleagues at my institution (a physicist and a dose planner) attended the same course and we met and discussed some key points from the course to present at our institution.

How would you encourage someone who has never been to a European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) course to join this course next year/ in two years?

I found that this was a "must attend" course for all specialists who want to work with SBRT.



Mette Felter

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