



Multidisciplinary Management of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer

4-6 October 2018 | Brussels, Belgium

COURSE DIRECTOR

Agata Rembielak, radiation oncologist and clinical oncologist, The Christie Hospital, Manchester, UK

AN ONCOLOGY TRAINEE'S PERSPECTIVE

I am currently a registrar in Scotland preparing for the fellowship of the Royal College of Radiology (FRCR) exams in 2019. I wanted to add to my knowledge on skin cancer and gain any useful hints to help tackle this difficult exam. I was particularly interested in this course on 'Multidisciplinary management of non-melanoma skin cancer', as skin cancer is said to be a popular question in the exam.

The course was held in Brussels, Belgium, in October 2018 over three days. This was the first ESTRO course I've attended, and I found it to be quite comprehensive in covering the subdisciplines under skin cancer oncology.

There were quite a few participants mostly at the consultant level from several different regions.

The environment was relaxed, and there were many lively discussions and questions after most of the talks. I found the presentations involving case-based discussions most useful to me as they incorporated real-world practice with the theory.

Day one of the course covered dermatopathology, skin cancer diagnostics and surgery. Day two looked at radiotherapy, medical physics

and brachytherapy. The final day was a recap of what we had learned through case-based discussions and sessions dedicated to multidisciplinary approaches, as well as looking at skin cancer oncology from a geriatrician and a tissue viability nurses' perspective.

We had a lovely dinner in the evening, which was a nice end to a busy day of radiotherapy and physics. I feel that this course has helped me understand the basics required for day-to-day radiotherapy planning as well as providing me with useful tips and hints for the FRCR exam.

I would recommend this course for anyone seeking to brush up their knowledge of non-melanoma skin oncology practice in Europe.

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A RADIATION ONCOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE

I had the pleasure of attending the inaugural 'Multidisciplinary management of non-melanoma skin cancer' course in Brussels, Belgium, in October 2018. There are not many teaching courses or conferences dedicated solely to non-melanoma skin cancer, and so I was excited when the ESTRO School announced it would be starting this course. This interest was evidently shared by many others – the course was fully booked two months ahead. In total, there were 60 attendees, from 17 countries, including Australia, Canada, USA, as well as several centres across Europe. The course faculty came from a multidisciplinary background, and included a pathologist, dermatologist, surgeon, wound care nurse, as well as radiation oncologists, a medical physicist and a radiographer.

The course began with an introduction to skin pathology and modern dermatology. The dermatologist, surgeon, and radiation oncologist offered their perspectives on non-melanoma skin cancer treatment. Given that the vast majority of our patients are elderly and often frail, we had a useful review of geriatric oncology and its application in usually busy skin clinics. External beam radiotherapy and brachytherapy were discussed in more detail the following day, along with talks on supportive care. The last day was dedicated to the role of the multidisciplinary team in patient management, current and future research in non-melanoma skin cancer, and the emerging role of biomarkers and targeted therapy. ☺

Throughout the course, several clinical skin cases were presented for us to consider management options, and the course concluded by reviewing how the faculty had prescribed treatment for these patients. On the last day there was a very interesting interactive case discussion session, in which attendees had the opportunity to present their own challenging cases.

The course was held at the ESTRO offices in Brussels, an easy metro ride from the city centre. During the coffee breaks and lunches we could talk with fellow oncologists from around the world, and learn how non-melanoma skin cancer is treated at their centres. The social evening, held on the first night, was another enjoyable opportunity to mingle with colleagues. The weather in Brussels was lovely and warm, allowing us to explore this beautiful city on foot, and to sample the beer and chocolate.

This was a very useful and practical course on non-melanoma skin cancer, especially given the rising incidence of this disease, and the increase in patient volume and complexity we are going to be seeing in our practices over time. I would like to congratulate the course director Agata Rembielak for all her hard work over the past few years in designing, organising, and implementing this course. I would also like to thank the local organisers and teaching staff, for what will surely be the first of many successful ESTRO teaching courses on non-melanoma skin cancer.



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