Title of the report: EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR NURSES

Structure of the training, use of VERT, use of CBCT protocols.

HOST INSTITUTE:
Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

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Aim of the visit

As a head nurse I manage a team of thirty-three nurses in a complex working environment. Due to a lack of a formal national RTT education program for nurses working in Radiation-Oncology in Belgium, we have to organize a lot of in-house education which is often not scientifically substantiated. I am one of the leading people who is trying to organize an education for nurses working in Radiotherapy in Flanders.

Education is one of my focal points of interest. In collaboration with our Flemish organization it is our goal to pave the way for an education programs in radiotherapy.

Denmark has the same situation as Belgium. Bachelor nurses without any expertise in Radiation-Oncology who start to work in a very complex environment. However, since 1990 on, they have built up a magnificent education program.

I was very interested to discover how Denmark build up their own education program and how they use it as a standard program. I was also interested how they integrate the virtual learning environment (VERT) through their program.

Details of the scientific content of the visit

The responsible coordinator of the learning centre in Aarhus made a six day program:

- Introduction to the Department of Cancer
- Education Programs and E-learning for RTT’s
- Education in Belgium (lecture by myself)
- Time at Accelerator in Skejby
- Education Manager about Education, Evaluation, Goals etc in Clinical Practice
- Introduction to Learningcenter and VERT
- How do we achieve Skills and Implement new Modalities without disturbing the Clinic (RTT, Specialist in Image Guided Radiotherapy in IT lab)
- Time at Accelerator in Nørrebrogade
- Experiences and Management, Education and new Employees, Role of the leaders. (Leader of Radiation clinic in Nørrebrogade & Leader of Radiation Clinic Skejby)
- DCPT(The Danish Center for Particle Therapy)
- Starting up an alliance with ESTRO
- Evaluation of the visit (Tove)

Results from the stay in Aarhus

During this period I have been able to go through all aspects of the predetermined program and I did this on a very intensely way. It was very detailed and well worked out.

All those input was incredibly instructive and is useful for my own work environment.
I had a lot of conversations where we extensively discussed the training program, the structure, the underlying goals to achieve, the development of the learning objectives.

The practical part of the training was also explained in detail and through a lot of conversations I have been able to form myself a complete picture of the entire program.

I also got the chance to give a presentation about the educational situation in my own country. I had a meeting with nurses in connection with the start-up of a nursing consultation during the radiotherapy treatment.

I brainstormed with colleagues about the start-up of an association for nurses working in radiotherapy. The possible link with ESTRO was also discussed.

I hope that the responsibles from my own institution, as well as those who are responsible for the training programs in Flanders, understand that we urgently need a good and high level of education. Through individual interviews I will inform them of what I have learned during the past week.