

ESTRO vision 2012-2018

The vision of ESTRO for Radiation Oncology and cancer care for the 2020 horizon:

Every cancer patient in Europe will have access to state of the art radiation therapy, as part of a multidisciplinary approach where treatment is individualised for the specific patient's cancer, taking account of the patient's personal circumstances.

In order to achieve this vision ESTRO will support the following initiatives and model of clinical care as part of the future strategic development of the Society:

1. All patients are entitled to access healthcare systems that enable the highest quality radiotherapy delivered within a safe healthcare environment, and on completion of treatment have access to appropriate long-term follow-up advice and support from members of the clinical radiation oncology team.
2. All patients are entitled to receive full information on the primary benefit, and where unavoidable, the potential side effects associated with their proposed radiation therapy treatment programme.
3. For all patients receiving radiation therapy, the patient-doctor relationship will continue to be of central importance, and this will remain a critical requirement in the future development of the clinical discipline of radiation oncology.
4. In recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of radiation oncology the patient will significantly benefit from the additional expert input from other members of the radiation oncology multidisciplinary team and allied healthcare disciplines.
5. Given the critical role of radiation therapy in the care of individual patients, the radiation oncologist will frequently be the lead physician responsible for the overall care of the patient, and therefore have a unique responsibility for the patient's on-going care and wellbeing.
6. In recognition of the above, ESTRO will continue to develop innovative mechanisms that enable young professionals within the Society and in radiation oncology to actively participate in the development of future clinical services for patients, in particular through the strategic development of scientific, educational and professional services co-ordinated by the Society.

The vision is broken down into following sections:

Vision 1.1

Optimal individualised patient care will be achieved by integrating, new clinical and preclinical evidence from biology, functional and anatomic imaging, and the use of novel systemic agents together with the delivery of high-precision radiation therapy in a safety-aware environment.

Vision 1.2

The majority of patients will live cancer free with minimal toxicity following the use of radical radiation therapy when used as a single curative modality of treatment or when used in combination with surgery, systemic chemotherapy and/or systemic targeted therapeutics.

Vision 1.3

Access to continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional & personal development (CPPD) will empower both healthcare professionals and patients to fully participate in all decisions regarding treatment.

Vision 1.4

National and international policy-makers, healthcare management, industrial and corporate partners, and other professional oncology societies will recognise radiation oncology as a major contributor to cancer cure, and ESTRO as a strategic driving force in the multidisciplinary fight against cancer.

Vision 1.5

ESTRO will take all reasonable measures to further develop as the preeminent educational and scientific society in radiotherapy and oncology, and through this role, the Society will have a unique strategic responsibility for the future development of the clinical discipline of radiation and clinical oncology within Europe and at a global level.