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***Review of Radiation Oncology Physics:
A Handbook for Teachers and Students***

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PREAMBLE

Radiation therapy, also referred to as radiotherapy, radiation oncology or therapeutic radiology, is one of the three principal modalities used in treatment of malignant disease (cancer), the other two being surgery and chemotherapy. In contrast to other medical specialties that rely mainly on the clinical knowledge and experience of medical specialists, radiotherapy, with its use of ionising radiation in treatment of cancer, relies heavily on modern technology and collaborative efforts of several professionals whose coordinated team approach greatly influences the outcome of the treatment.

The radiotherapy team consists of radiation oncologists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, and radiation therapy technologists: all professionals characterized by widely differing educational backgrounds and one common link – the need to understand the basic elements of radiation physics and the interaction of ionising radiation with human tissue in particular. This specialized area of physics is referred to as *radiation oncology physics* and proficiency in this branch of physics is an absolute necessity for anybody who aspires to achieve excellence in any of the four professions constituting the radiotherapy team.

This book is dedicated to students and teachers involved in programmes that train professionals for work in radiation oncology. It provides a compilation of facts on the physics as applied to radiation oncology and as such will be useful to graduate students and residents in medical physics programmes, to residents in radiation oncology, as well as to students in dosimetry and radiotherapy technology programmes. The level of understanding of the material covered will, of course, be different for the various student groups; however, the basic language and knowledge for all student groups will be the same. The text will also be of use to candidates preparing for professional certification examinations be it in radiation oncology, medical physics, dosimetry, or radiotherapy technology.

The intent of the text is to serve as a factual supplement to the various textbooks on medical physics and to provide basic radiation oncology physics knowledge in the form of a syllabus covering all modern aspects of radiation oncology physics. While the text is mainly aimed at radiation oncology professionals, certain parts of it may also be of interest in other branches of medicine that use ionising radiation not for treatment of disease but for diagnosis of disease (diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine). The content may also be useful for physicists who are involved in studies of radiation hazards and radiation protection (health physics).

I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions as well as colleagues and my wife Mariana for advice and encouragement throughout this project.

Ervin B. Podgorsak

FOREWORD

In the late nineties, following a re-focusing of the work within the Dosimetry and Medical Radiation Physics Section (DMRP), the IAEA initiated a systematic and comprehensive plan to support the development of teaching programmes in medical radiation physics for many of its Member States. Multiple projects were initiated at various levels which, together with the well known short-term training courses and specialization fellowships funded by IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects, aimed at supporting countries to develop their own university-based M.Sc. programmes in medical radiation physics.

One of the early programmatic activities by DMRP in this period was the development of a "Syllabus in Radiotherapy Physics", with the goal of harmonizing the various levels of training that the IAEA provided, mainly through short-term courses. This was done during 1997-1998 by a group of physicists from Europe and North America with long experience in the teaching of medical physics (B. Nilsson, Sweden; B. Planskoy, UK; J.C. Rosenwald, France; and N. Suntharalingam, USA) under the supervision of the then DMRP Section Head, P. Andreo. The result of this work was released as an internal report (IAEA DMRP-9802), and its success encouraged the next step aimed at supporting more directly the material used in the various M.Sc. programmes.

In 1999 a consultants' meeting (R. Alfonso, Cuba; E. Podgorsak, Canada; G. Rajan, India; W. Strydom, South Africa; and N. Suntharalingam, USA) was conducted under P. Andreo's supervision to analyze the task to be implemented. The possibility of writing a "Primer in Radiotherapy Physics", based on the Syllabus above, which would provide physicists in developing countries with a modern and affordable text book was considered first. Arguments against this option were the wide availability of several excellent basic books in Radiotherapy Physics (even if it was difficult to recommend one in particular as being comprehensive), and the risk that the Primer would simply become another book, not necessarily better than the existing ones. Ultimately, a second option seemed more reasonable, which was to develop a "Teachers Guide", where the various topics in the Syllabus would be expanded to form a detailed "bullet list" containing the basic guidelines of the material to be included in each topic so that lectures to students could be prepared accordingly. This should include a comprehensive bibliography in order to harmonize the content of the lectures in different sites. During 1999-2000 the consultants named above prepared an initial draft of some chapters. After the departure of P. Andreo from the IAEA, J. Izewska took on responsibility for the project and searched for an editor to build the Guide and fulfill its initial goal.

During the period 2001-2002, E. Podgorsak (Canada) was appointed editor of the project and under the supervision of K. Shortt, the new DMRP Section Head, and in conjunction with J. Izewska, he implemented a change in strategy that led to the successful completion of the entire project. With enormous enthusiasm and professionalism, he redesigned the contents so that the book became a comprehensive "Handbook for Teachers and Students", with coverage deeper than a simple Guide. As well, he expanded considerably the initial list of topics by engaging an enhanced list of international contributors.

Foreword

The “Handbook for Teachers and Students in Radiation Oncology Physics” aims at providing the basis for the education of medical physicists initiating their university studies in the field. It is not designed to replace the large number of textbooks available, which will still be necessary to deepen the level of knowledge in specific topics reviewed by the Handbook since it now includes the most recent advances in radiation therapy techniques available today. It is expected that the Handbook will successfully fill a gap in the teaching material for the specialty of Medical Radiation Physics, providing in a single manageable volume the largest possible coverage available today. Its wide dissemination by the IAEA will contribute undoubtedly to the harmonization of education in the field and be of value to new comers as well as those preparing for their certification as medical physicists.

At this stage, the IAEA is publishing the Handbook as “working material” seeking comments, corrections and feedback.

IAEA scientific officers of the project were: P. Andreo, J. Izewska and K. Shortt.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1. **BASIC RADIATION PHYSICS**

1.1.	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1.1.	Fundamental physical constants	1
1.1.2.	Important derived physical constants and relationships	2
1.1.3.	Physical quantities and units	3
1.1.4.	Classification of forces in nature	4
1.1.5.	Classification of fundamental particles	4
1.1.6.	Classification of radiation	5
1.1.7.	Classification of ionizing photon radiation	6
1.1.8.	Relativistic mass, energy, and momentum relationships	6
1.1.9.	Radiation quantities and units	6
1.2.	ATOMIC AND NUCLEAR STRUCTURE	7
1.2.1.	Basic definitions for atomic structure	7
1.2.2.	Rutherford's model of the atom	9
1.2.3.	Bohr's model of hydrogen atom	10
1.2.4.	Multi-electron atoms	12
1.2.5.	Nuclear structure	13
1.2.6.	Nuclear reactions	14
1.2.7.	Radioactivity	14
1.2.8.	Activation of isotopes	17
1.2.9.	Modes of radioactive decay	18
1.3.	ELECTRON INTERACTIONS	19
1.3.1.	Electron-orbital electron interactions	20
1.3.2.	Electron-nucleus interactions	20
1.3.3.	Stopping power	21
1.3.4.	Mass scattering power	22
1.4.	PHOTON INTERACTIONS	23
1.4.1.	Types of indirectly ionizing photon radiations	23
1.4.2.	Photon beam attenuation	23
1.4.3.	Types of photon interactions	24
1.4.4.	Photoelectric effect	25
1.4.5.	Coherent (Rayleigh) scattering	25
1.4.6.	Compton effect (incoherent scattering)	26
1.4.7.	Pair production	29
1.4.8.	Photonuclear reactions	29
1.4.9.	Contributions to attenuation coefficients	30
1.4.10.	Relative predominance of individual effects	31
1.4.11.	Effects following photon interactions	32
1.4.12.	Summary of photon interactions	33
1.4.13.	Example	34

Table of Contents

1.4.14. Production of vacancies in atomic shells..... 36
BIBLIOGRAPHY 36

*Chapter 2. **DOSIMETRIC PRINCIPLES, QUANTITIES AND UNITS***

2.1. INTRODUCTION..... 37
2.2. PHOTON FLUENCE AND ENERGY FLUENCE 37
2.3. KERMA39
2.4. CEMA40
2.5. ABSORBED DOSE..... 40
2.6. STOPPING POWER..... 41
2.7. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DOSIMETRIC QUANTITIES 44
 2.7.1. Energy fluence and kerma (photons)..... 44
 2.7.2. Fluence and dose (electrons) 46
 2.7.3. Kerma and dose (charged particle equilibrium) 47
 2.7.4. Collision kerma and exposure 49
2.8. CAVITY THEORY 50
 2.8.1. Bragg-Gray cavity theory 50
 2.8.2. Spencer-Attix cavity theory..... 51
 2.8.3. Considerations in the application of cavity theory to ionisation
 chamber calibration and dosimetry protocols..... 53
 2.8.4. Large cavities in photon beams 54
 2.8.5. Burlin cavity theory for photon beams 55
 2.8.6. Stopping power ratios 56
BIBLIOGRAPHY 58

*Chapter 3. **RADIATION DOSIMETERS***

3.1. INTRODUCTION 59
3.2. PROPERTIES OF DOSIMETERS 60
 3.2.1. Accuracy and precision 60
 3.2.2. Linearity 62
 3.2.3. Dose rate dependence 62
 3.2.4. Energy dependence 63
 3.2.5. Directional dependence 63
 3.2.6. Spatial resolution and physical size..... 63
 3.2.7. Readout convenience..... 64
 3.2.8. Convenience of use..... 64
3.3. IONISATION CHAMBER DOSIMETRY SYSTEMS..... 64

3.3.1.	Chambers and electrometers	64
3.3.2.	Cylindrical (thimble type) ionisation chambers.....	66
3.3.3.	Parallel-plate (plane-parallel) ionisation chambers	66
3.3.4.	Brachytherapy chambers	67
3.3.5.	Extrapolation chambers.....	68
3.4.	FILM DOSIMETRY	68
3.4.1.	Radiographic film	68
3.4.2.	Radiochromic film	71
3.5.	LUMINESCENCE DOSIMETRY	71
3.5.1.	Thermoluminescence.....	72
3.5.2.	TLD systems.....	73
3.5.3.	OSL systems.....	75
3.6.	SEMICONDUCTOR DOSIMETRY	75
3.6.1.	Silicon diode dosimetry systems	75
3.6.2.	MOSFET dosimeter.....	76
3.7.	OTHER DOSIMETRY SYSTEMS	77
3.7.1.	Alanine/EPR dosimetry system.....	77
3.7.2.	Plastic scintillator dosimetry system	77
3.7.3.	Diamond dosimeters.....	78
3.7.4.	Gel dosimetry systems.....	79
3.8.	PRIMARY STANDARDS	80
3.8.1.	Primary standard for <i>air-kerma in air</i>	80
3.8.2.	Primary standards for absorbed <i>dose-to-water</i>	80
3.8.3.	Ionometric standard for absorbed <i>dose-to-water</i>	81
3.8.4.	Chemical dosimetry standard for absorbed <i>dose-to-water</i>	81
3.8.5.	Calorimetric standard for absorbed <i>dose-to-water</i>	82
3.9.	SUMMARY OF COMMONLY USED DOSIMETRY SYSTEMS.....	82
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	84

Chapter 4. **RADIATION MONITORING INSTRUMENTS**

4.1.	INTRODUCTION	85
4.2.	OPERATIONAL QUANTITIES FOR RADIATION MONITORING	85
4.3.	AREA SURVEY METERS	86
4.3.1.	Ionisation chambers	88
4.3.2.	Proportional counters	88
4.3.3.	Neutron area survey meters	89
4.3.4.	GM counters	90
4.3.5.	Scintillator detectors	90

Table of Contents

4.3.6.	Semiconductor detectors	90
4.3.7.	Commonly available features of area survey meters	91
4.3.8.	Calibration of survey meters	91
4.3.9.	Properties of survey meters	92
4.4.	INDIVIDUAL MONITORING	94
4.4.1.	Film badge	95
4.4.2.	Thermoluminescent dosimetry (TLD) badge	96
4.4.3.	Radiophotoluminescent (RPL) glass dosimetry systems	97
4.4.4.	Optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) systems	97
4.4.5.	Direct reading personal monitors	97
4.4.6.	Calibration	98
4.4.7.	Properties of personal monitors	99
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	101

Chapter 5. **MACHINES FOR EXTERNAL BEAM RADIOTHERAPY**

5.1.	INTRODUCTION	103
5.2.	X-RAY BEAMS AND X-RAY UNITS	103
5.2.1.	Characteristic x-rays	104
5.2.2.	Bremsstrahlung (continuous) x-rays	104
5.2.3.	X-ray targets	104
5.2.4.	Clinical x-ray beams	106
5.2.5.	X-ray beam quality specifiers	106
5.2.6.	X-ray machines for radiotherapy	107
5.3.	GAMMA RAY BEAMS AND GAMMA RAY UNITS	108
5.3.1.	Basic properties of gamma rays	108
5.3.2.	Teletherapy machines	109
5.3.3.	Teletherapy sources	109
5.3.4.	Teletherapy source housing	110
5.3.5.	Dose delivery with teletherapy machines	110
5.3.6.	Collimator and penumbra	111
5.4.	PARTICLE ACCELERATORS	111
5.4.1.	Betatron	112
5.4.2.	Cyclotron	112
5.4.3.	Microtron	113
5.5.	LINEAR ACCELERATORS	114
5.5.1.	Linac generations	114
5.5.2.	Safety of linac installations	115
5.5.3.	Components of modern linacs	115
5.5.4.	Configuration of modern linacs	116
5.5.5.	Injection system	118
5.5.6.	RF power generation system	118
5.5.7.	Accelerating waveguide	119

5.5.8.	Microwave power transmission	121
5.5.9.	Auxilliary system	121
5.5.10.	Electron beam transport	121
5.5.11.	Linac treatment head	122
5.5.12.	Production of clinical photon beams in a linac	123
5.5.13.	Beam collimation	123
5.5.14.	Production of clinical electron beams in a linac	124
5.5.15.	Dose monitoring system	125
5.6.	RADIOTHERAPY WITH PROTONS, NEUTRONS AND HEAVY IONS	126
5.7.	SHIELDING CONSIDERATIONS	127
5.8.	COBALT-60 TELETHERAPY UNIT VERSUS LINAC	127
5.9.	SIMULATORS AND CT-SIMULATORS	130
5.9.1.	Radiation therapy simulator	130
5.9.2.	CT-simulator.....	131
5.10.	TRAINING REQUIREMENTS	132
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	132

Chapter 6. **EXTERNAL PHOTON BEAMS: PHYSICAL ASPECTS**

6.1.	INTRODUCTION	133
6.2.	QUANTITIES USED IN DESCRIBING A PHOTON BEAM	133
6.2.1.	Photon fluence and photon fluence rate	133
6.2.2.	Energy fluence and energy fluence rate	134
6.2.3.	Air-kerma in air	134
6.2.4.	Exposure in air.....	135
6.2.5.	Dose to small mass of medium in air	135
6.3.	PHOTON BEAM SOURCES	137
6.4.	INVERSE SQUARE LAW	138
6.5.	PENETRATION OF PHOTON BEAMS INTO A PHANTOM OR PATIENT	139
6.5.1.	Surface dose	141
6.5.2.	Buildup region	141
6.5.3.	Depth of dose maximum	142
6.5.4.	Exit dose	142
6.6.	RADIATION TREATMENT PARAMETERS	142
6.6.1.	Radiation beam field size	142
6.6.2.	Collimator factor	143

Table of Contents

6.6.3.	Peak-scatter factor PSF	144
6.6.4.	Relative dose factor RDF	146
6.7.	CENTRAL AXIS DEPTH DOSES IN WATER: SSD SET-UP	148
6.7.1.	Percentage depth dose PDD	148
6.7.2.	Scatter function S	151
6.8.	CENTRAL AXIS DEPTH DOSES IN WATER: SAD SET-UP	152
6.8.1.	Tissue-air ratio TAR	152
6.8.2.	Relationship between TAR and PDD	154
6.8.3.	Scatter-air ratio SAR	157
6.8.4.	Relationship between SAR and S	157
6.8.5.	Tissue-phantom ratio TPR and tissue-maximum ratio TMR	157
6.8.6.	Relationship between TMR and PDD	159
6.8.7.	Scatter-maximum ratio SMR	160
6.9.	OFF-AXIS RATIOS AND BEAM PROFILES	161
6.10.	ISODOSE DISTRIBUTIONS IN WATER PHANTOMS	163
6.11.	ISODOSE DISTRIBUTIONS IN PATIENTS	165
6.11.1.	Correction for irregular contours and oblique beam incidence	166
6.11.2.	Missing tissue compensation	168
6.11.3.	Corrections for tissue inhomogeneities	169
6.11.4.	Model-based algorithms	170
6.12.	CLARKSON SEGMENTAL INTEGRATION	170
6.13.	RELATIVE MEASUREMENTS WITH IONISATION CHAMBERS ...	172
6.14.	DELIVERY OF DOSE WITH A SINGLE EXTERNAL BEAM	175
6.15.	EXAMPLE OF DOSE CALCULATION	176
6.16.	SHUTTER CORRECTION TIME	178
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	178

Chapter 7. **CLINICAL TREATMENT PLANNING IN EXTERNAL PHOTON BEAM RADIOTHERAPY**

7.1.	INTRODUCTION	179
7.2.	VOLUME DEFINITION	179
7.2.1.	Gross tumor volume (GTV)	180
7.2.2.	Clinical target volume (CTV)	180
7.2.3.	Internal target volume (ITV)	181
7.2.4.	Planning target volume (PTV)	181
7.2.5.	Organ at risk (OAR)	181

7.3.	DOSE SPECIFICATION	182
7.4.	PATIENT DATA ACQUISITION AND SIMULATION	182
7.4.1.	Need for patient data	182
7.4.2.	Nature of patient data	183
7.4.3.	Treatment simulation	184
7.4.4.	Patient treatment position and immobilization devices	185
7.4.5.	Patient data requirements	186
7.4.6.	Conventional treatment simulation	188
7.4.7.	Computed tomography-based conventional treatment simulation ..	190
7.4.8.	Computed tomography-based virtual simulation	192
7.4.9.	Conventional simulator vs. CT simulator	196
7.4.10.	Magnetic resonance imaging for treatment planning	196
7.4.11.	Summary of simulation procedures	198
7.5.	CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PHOTON BEAMS	199
7.5.1.	Isodose curves	199
7.5.2.	Wedge filters	199
7.5.3.	Bolus	202
7.5.4.	Compensating filters	202
7.5.5.	Corrections for contour irregularities	203
7.5.6.	Corrections for tissue inhomogeneities	205
7.5.7.	Beam combinations and clinical application	207
7.6.	TREATMENT PLAN EVALUATION	211
7.6.1.	Isodose curves	212
7.6.2.	Orthogonal planes and isodose surfaces	212
7.6.3.	Dose statistics	212
7.6.4.	Dose-volume histograms	213
7.6.5.	Treatment evaluation	215
7.7.	TREATMENT TIME AND MONITOR UNIT CALCULATIONS	218
7.7.1.	Treatment time and monitor unit calculations for fixed <i>SSD</i> set-ups	219
7.7.2.	Monitor units and treatment time calculations for isocentric set-ups	221
7.7.3.	Normalization of dose distributions	223
7.7.4.	Inclusion of output parameters in dose distribution	223
7.7.5.	Treatment time calculation for orthovoltage and cobalt-60 units	223
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	224

*Chapter 8. **ELECTRON BEAMS: PHYSICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS***

8.1.	CENTRAL AXIS DEPTH DOSE DISTRIBUTIONS IN WATER	225
8.1.1.	General shape of depth dose curve	225
8.1.2.	Electron interactions with absorbing medium	226
8.1.3.	Inverse square law (virtual source position)	227
8.1.4.	Range concept (csda)	228

Table of Contents

8.1.5.	Buildup region (depths between surface and z_{max})	230
8.1.6.	Dose distribution beyond z_{max}	231
8.2.	DOSIMETRIC PARAMETERS OF ELECTRON BEAMS	231
8.2.1.	Percentage depth dose	231
8.2.2.	Oblique beam incidence	233
8.2.3.	Output factors	234
8.2.4.	Therapeutic range R_{90}	235
8.2.5.	Electron beam energy specification	235
8.2.6.	Typical depth dose parameters as a function of energy	235
8.2.7.	Profiles and off-axis ratios	236
8.2.8.	Flatness and symmetry	236
8.3.	CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ELECTRON BEAM THERAPY	237
8.3.1.	Dose specification and reporting	237
8.3.2.	Bolus-electron range modifier	237
8.3.3.	Small field sizes	237
8.3.4.	Isodose curves	238
8.3.5.	Field shaping	239
8.3.6.	Irregular surface correction	241
8.3.7.	Inhomogeneity corrections	243
8.3.8.	Electron beam combinations	244
8.3.9.	Electron arc therapy	245
8.3.10.	Electron therapy treatment planning	247
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	248

Chapter 9. **CALIBRATION OF PHOTON AND ELECTRON BEAMS**

9.1.	INTRODUCTION	249
9.1.1.	Calorimetry	250
9.1.2.	Fricke dosimetry	251
9.1.3.	Ionisation chamber dosimetry	251
9.1.4.	Reference dosimetry with ionisation chambers	252
9.1.5.	Clinical beam calibration and measurement chain	253
9.1.6.	Dosimetry protocols	254
9.2.	IONISATION CHAMBER-BASED DOSIMETRY SYSTEMS	254
9.2.1.	Ionisation chambers	254
9.2.2.	Electrometer and power supply	256
9.2.3.	Phantoms	256
9.3.	CHAMBER SIGNAL CORRECTION FOR INFLUENCE QUANTITIES	257
9.3.1.	Air temperature, pressure and humidity effects: $k_{T,P}$	257
9.3.2.	Chamber polarity effects: polarity correction factor k_{pol}	258
9.3.3.	Chamber voltage effects: recombination correction factor k_{sat}	259
9.3.4.	Chamber leakage currents	262
9.3.5.	Chamber stem effects	263

9.4.	DETERMINATION OF ABSORBED DOSE USING CALIBRATED IONISATION CHAMBERS	264
9.4.1.	<i>Air-kerma</i> -based protocols	264
9.4.2.	Absorbed <i>dose-to-water</i> -based protocols	266
9.5.	STOPPING-POWER RATIOS	269
9.5.1.	Stopping-power ratios for electron beams	269
9.5.2.	Stopping-power ratios for photon beams	270
9.6.	MASS ENERGY–ABSORPTION COEFFICIENT RATIOS	270
9.7.	PERTURBATION CORRECTION FACTORS	271
9.7.1.	Displacement perturbation factor p_{dis} and effective point of Measurement	272
9.7.2.	The chamber wall perturbation factor p_{wall}	273
9.7.3.	Central electrode perturbation p_{cel}	275
9.7.4.	Cavity or fluence perturbation correction p_{cav}	275
9.8.	BEAM QUALITY SPECIFICATION	277
9.8.1.	Beam quality specification for kilovoltage photon beams	277
9.8.2.	Beam quality specification for megavoltage photon beams	278
9.8.3.	Beam quality specification for megavoltage electron beams	279
9.9.	CALIBRATION OF MEGAVOLTAGE PHOTON AND ELECTRON BEAMS: PRACTICAL ASPECTS	282
9.9.1.	Calibration of megavoltage photon beams based upon <i>air-kerma in air</i> calibration coefficient $N_{\text{K,Co}}$	282
9.9.2.	Calibration of megavoltage photon beams based on <i>dose-to-water</i> calibration coefficient $N_{\text{D,w,Co}}$	283
9.9.3.	Calibration of megavoltage electron beams based upon <i>air-kerma in air</i> calibration coefficient $N_{\text{K,Co}}$	284
9.9.4.	Calibration of high-energy electron beams based upon <i>dose-to-water</i> calibration coefficient $N_{\text{D,w,Co}}$	285
9.10.	KILOVOLTAGE DOSIMETRY	286
9.10.1.	Specificities of kilovoltage beams	287
9.10.2.	The <i>air-kerma</i> -based in-phantom calibration method (medium energies)	288
9.10.3.	The <i>air-kerma</i> -based backscatter method (low and medium photon energies)	288
9.10.4.	<i>Air-kerma</i> in air-based calibration method for very low energies ...	289
9.10.5.	Absorbed dose to water-based calibration method	290
9.11.	ERROR AND UNCERTAINTY ANALYSIS FOR IONISATION CHAMBER MEASUREMENTS	290
9.11.1.	Errors and uncertainties	290

Table of Contents

9.11.2.	Classification of uncertainties	291
9.11.3.	Uncertainties in the calibration chain	291
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	291

Chapter 10. ACCEPTANCE TESTS AND COMMISSIONING

10.1.	INTRODUCTION	293
10.2.	MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT	293
10.2.1.	Radiation survey equipment	293
10.2.2.	Ionometric dosimetry equipment	293
10.2.3.	Film.....	294
10.2.4.	Diodes	294
10.2.5.	Phantoms	294
10.3.	ACCEPTANCE TESTS	295
10.3.1.	Safety checks	296
10.3.2.	Mechanical checks	297
10.3.3.	Dosimetry measurements	301
10.4.	COMMISSIONING	304
10.4.1.	Photon beam measurements	304
10.4.2.	Electron beam measurements	310
10.5.	TIME REQUIRED FOR COMMISSIONING	315
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	316

Chapter 11. COMPUTERIZED TREATMENT PLANNING SYSTEMS FOR EXTERNAL BEAM RADIOTHERAPY

11.1.	INTRODUCTION	317
11.2.	SYSTEM HARDWARE	318
11.2.1.	Treatment planning system hardware	318
11.2.2.	Treatment planning system configurations	319
11.3.	SYSTEM SOFTWARE AND CALCULATION ALGORITHMS	319
11.3.1.	Calculation algorithms	320
11.3.2.	Beam modifiers	322
11.3.3.	Heterogeneity corrections	324
11.3.4.	Image display and dose volume histograms	324
11.3.5.	Optimization	325
11.3.6.	Record and verify (RV) systems	325
11.3.7.	Biological modeling	326
11.4.	DATA ACQUISITION AND ENTRY	326

11.4.1.	Machine data	326
11.4.2.	Beam data acquisition and entry	327
11.4.3.	Patient data	328
11.5.	COMMISSIONING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE	329
11.5.1.	Errors	329
11.5.2.	Verification	329
11.5.3.	Spot checks	330
11.5.4.	Normalization and beam weighting	330
11.5.5.	Dose volume histograms and optimization	331
11.5.6.	Training and documentation	331
11.5.7.	Scheduled quality assurance	331
11.6.	SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	332
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	333
Chapter 12.	<u>QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EXTERNAL BEAM RADIOTHERAPY</u>	
12.1.	INTRODUCTION	335
12.1.1.	Definitions	335
12.1.2.	The need for quality assurance in radiotherapy	336
12.1.3.	Requirements on accuracy in radiotherapy	336
12.1.4.	Accidents in radiotherapy	338
12.2.	MANAGING A QA PROGRAMME	340
12.2.1.	Multidisciplinary radiotherapy team	340
12.2.2.	Quality system/comprehensive QA programme	342
12.3.	QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME FOR EQUIPMENT	343
12.3.1.	The structure of an equipment QA programme	344
12.3.2.	Uncertainties, tolerances and action levels	347
12.3.3.	QA programme for cobalt-60 teletherapy machines	348
12.3.4.	QA programme for linear accelerators	350
12.3.5.	QA programme for treatment simulators	352
12.3.6.	QA programme for CT scanners and CT-simulation	353
12.3.7.	QA programme for treatment planning systems	354
12.3.8.	QA programme for test equipment	356
12.4.	TREATMENT DELIVERY	357
12.4.1.	Patient charts	357
12.4.2.	Portal imaging	358
12.4.3.	<i>In-vivo</i> dose measurements.....	361
12.4.4.	Record-and-verify systems.....	365
12.5.	QUALITY AUDIT	366
12.5.1.	Definition	366
12.5.2.	Practical quality audit modalities	366

Table of Contents

12.5.3. What should be reviewed in a quality audit visit? 366
BIBLIOGRAPHY 367

Chapter 13. **BRACHYTHERAPY: PHYSICAL AND CLINICAL ASPECTS**

13.1. INTRODUCTION **371**

13.2. PHOTON SOURCE CHARACTERISTICS **374**

13.2.1. Practical considerations 374
13.2.2. Physical characteristics of some photon-emitting
brachytherapy sources..... 374
13.2.3. Mechanical source characteristics 375
13.2.4. Source specification..... 376
13.2.5. Specification of gamma ray sources..... 376
13.2.6. Specification of beta ray sources 378

13.3. CLINICAL USE AND DOSIMETRY SYSTEMS **378**

13.3.1. Gynecology 378
13.3.2. Interstitial brachytherapy 379
13.3.3. Remote afterloading systems 380
13.3.4. Permanent prostate implants 381
13.3.5. Eye plaques 382
13.3.6. Intravascular brachytherapy 383

13.4. DOSE SPECIFICATION AND REPORTING **383**

13.4.1. Intracavitary treatments (ICRU Report 38) 383
13.4.2. Interstitial treatments (ICRU Report 58) 384

13.5. DOSE DISTRIBUTIONS AROUND SOURCES **384**

13.5.1. AAPM TG-43 algorithm 384
13.5.2. Other calculation methods for point sources 386
13.5.3. Linear sources 388

13.6. DOSE CALCULATION PROCEDURES **389**

13.6.1. Manual dose calculations 389
13.6.2. Computerized treatment planning 390
13.6.3. Calculation of treatment time 391

**13.7. COMMISSIONING OF BRACHYTHERAPY COMPUTER
TREATMENT PLANNING SYSTEMS** **392**

13.7.1. Check of the reconstruction procedure 392
13.7.2. Check of consistency between quantities and units 392
13.7.3. Computer vs. manual dose calculation for single source 392
13.7.4. Check of decay corrections 393

13.8. SOURCE COMMISSIONING **393**

13.8.1. Wipe tests 393

13.8.2.	Autoradiography and uniformity checks of activity	393
13.8.3.	Calibration chain	393
13.9.	QUALITY ASSURANCE	394
13.9.1.	Constancy check of calibrated dosimeter	394
13.9.2.	Regular checks of sources and applicators	394
13.9.3.	Checks of source positioning with afterloading devices	394
13.9.4.	Radiation monitoring around patients	394
13.9.5.	Quality management programme	395
13.10.	BRACHYTHERAPY VERSUS EXTERNAL BEAM THERAPY	395
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	395

Chapter 14. **BASIC RADIOBIOLOGY**

14.1.	INTRODUCTION	397
14.2.	CLASSIFICATION OF RADIATIONS IN RADIOBIOLOGY	398
14.3.	CELL CYCLE AND CELL DEATH	399
14.4.	IRRADIATION OF CELLS	399
14.4.1.	Direct action in cell damage by radiation	399
14.4.2.	Indirect action of cell damage by radiation	400
14.4.3.	Fate of irradiated cells	400
14.5.	TYPE OF RADIATION DAMAGE	401
14.5.1.	Time scale	401
14.5.2.	Classification of radiation damage	401
14.5.3.	Somatic and genetic effects	401
14.5.4.	Stochastic and deterministic effects	402
14.5.5.	Acute vs. chronic effects	402
14.5.6.	Total body radiation response	402
14.5.7.	Fetal irradiation	403
14.6.	CELL SURVIVAL CURVES	403
14.7.	DOSE-RESPONSE CURVES	405
14.8.	MEASUREMENT OF RADIATION DAMAGE IN TISSUE	407
14.9.	NORMAL AND TUMOR CELLS: THERAPEUTIC RATIO	407
14.10.	OXYGEN EFFECT	408
14.11.	RELATIVE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTIVENESS	410
14.12.	DOSE RATE AND FRACTIONATION	411

14.13. RADIOPROTECTORS AND RADIOSENSITIZERS	412
<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	<i>412</i>
<i>Chapter 15. <u>SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES IN RADIOTHERAPY</u></i>	
15.1. INTRODUCTION	413
15.2. STEREOTACTIC IRRADIATION	413
15.2.1. Physical and clinical requirements for radiosurgery	414
15.2.2. Diseases treated with stereotactic irradiation	415
15.2.3. Equipment used for stereotactic radiosurgery	415
15.2.4. Historical development	415
15.2.5. Radiosurgical techniques	416
15.2.6. Uncertainty in radiosurgical dose delivery	419
15.2.7. Dose prescription and dose fractionation	419
15.2.8. Commissioning of radiosurgical equipment	420
15.2.9. Quality assurance in radiosurgery	420
15.2.10. Gamma knife versus linac-based radiosurgery	421
15.2.11. Frameless stereotaxy	421
15.3. TOTAL BODY IRRADIATION (TBI)	422
15.3.1. Clinical TBI categories	422
15.3.2. Diseases treated with TBI	422
15.3.3. Technical aspects of TBI	423
15.3.4. TBI techniques	423
15.3.5. Dose prescription point	423
15.3.6. Commissioning of TBI procedure	423
15.3.7. Test of TBI dosimetry protocol	424
15.3.8. Quality assurance in TBI	424
15.4. TOTAL SKIN ELECTRON IRRADIATION (TSEI)	427
15.4.1. Physical and clinical requirements for TSEI	427
15.4.2. Current TSEI techniques	428
15.4.3. Selection of TSEI technique	429
15.4.4. Dose calibration point	429
15.4.5. Skin dose rate at the dose prescription point	429
15.4.6. Commissioning of TSEI procedure	429
15.4.7. Measurement of clinical TSEI dose distributions	430
15.4.8. Quality assurance in TSEI	430
15.5. INTRAOPERATIVE RADIOTHERAPY (IORT)	431
15.5.1. Physical and clinical requirements for IORT	431
15.5.2. IORT radiation modalities and techniques	431
15.5.3. Commissioning an IORT programme	432
15.5.4. Quality assurance in IORT	432
15.6. ENDOCAVITARY RECTAL IRRADIATION	433

15.6.1.	Physical and clinical requirements for endorectal irradiation	433
15.6.2.	Endorectal treatment technique	434
15.6.3.	Quality assurance in endorectal treatments	434
15.7.	CONFORMAL RADIOTHERAPY	435
15.7.1.	Basic aspects of conformal radiotherapy	435
15.7.2.	Multileaf collimators	435
15.7.3.	Acceptance testing of MLCs	436
15.7.4.	Commissioning of MLCs	437
15.7.5.	Quality assurance programme for MLCs	437
15.7.6.	Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)	437
15.7.7.	Commissioning of IMRT systems	438
15.7.8.	Quality assurance for IMRT systems	439
15.7.9.	Dose verification for IMRT treatment plans	440
15.8.	IMAGE-GUIDED RADIATION THERAPY	440
15.8.1.	The BAT system	441
15.8.2.	The ExacTrac ultrasonic module	441
15.8.3.	CT Primatom	441
15.8.4.	Tomotherapy	442
15.8.5.	CyberKnife	442
15.9.	RESPIRATORY GATED RADIATION THERAPY	443
15.10.	PET/CT SCANNERS AND PET/CT IMAGE FUSION	444
	<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	446

Chapter 16. **RADIATION PROTECTION AND SAFETY IN RADIOTHERAPY**

16.1.	INTRODUCTION	447
16.2.	RADIATION EFFECTS	448
16.2.1.	Deterministic effects.....	448
16.2.2.	Stochastic effects	448
16.2.3.	Effects on embryo and fetus	448
16.3.	INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS AND RADIATION SAFETY STANDARDS	449
16.4.	TYPES OF RADIATION EXPOSURE	449
16.5.	QUANTITIES AND UNITS USED IN RADIATION PROTECTION	450
16.5.1.	Physical quantities	450
16.5.2.	Radiation protection quantities	451
16.5.3.	Operational quantities	454
16.6.	BASIC FRAMEWORK OF RADIATION PROTECTION	455

Table of Contents

16.7. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	456
16.8. SCOPE OF THE BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS	457
16.9. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS	457
16.10. SAFETY IN THE DESIGN OF RADIATION SOURCES AND EQUIPMENT	458
16.10.1. Equipment	458
16.10.2. Sealed sources	460
16.10.3. Safety in design of facilities and ancillary equipment	461
16.11. SAFETY ASSOCIATED WITH ACCEPTANCE TESTS, COMMISSIONING AND OPERATION	464
16.11.1. Safe operation of external beam radiotherapy	465
16.11.2. Safe operation of brachytherapy	465
16.12. SECURITY OF SOURCES	467
16.13. OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	468
16.13.1. Responsibilities and conditions of service	468
16.13.2. The use of dose constraints in radiotherapy	469
16.13.3. Investigation levels for staff exposure in radiotherapy	469
16.13.4. Pregnant workers	469
16.13.5. Classification of areas.....	470
16.13.6. Local rules and supervision	470
16.13.7. Protective equipment and tools	470
16.13.8. Individual monitoring and exposure assessment	471
16.13.9. Monitoring the workplace	471
16.13.10. Health surveillance	472
16.13.11. Records	472
16.14. MEDICAL EXPOSURE	473
16.14.1. Responsibilities for medical exposure	473
16.14.2. Justification of medical exposure	473
16.14.3. Optimization of exposure and protection	474
16.14.4. Calibration of radiotherapy sources and machines	474
16.14.5. Clinical dosimetry	476
16.14.6. Quality assurance for medical exposures	476
16.14.7. Constraints for comforters and visitors	477
16.14.8. Discharge of patients	478
16.14.9. Investigation of accidental medical exposure	478
16.15. PUBLIC EXPOSURE	479
16.15.1. Responsibilities.....	479
16.15.2. Access control for visitors	479
16.15.3. Radioactive waste and sources no longer in use	479
16.15.4. Monitoring of public exposure	479

16.16. POTENTIAL EXPOSURE AND EMERGENCY PLANS	479
16.16.1. Potential exposure and safety assessment	480
16.16.2. Mitigation of consequences: emergency plans	480
16.17. GENERAL SHIELDING CALCULATIONS	482
16.17.1. Step one: design dose at occupied areas (annual dose and weekly dose)	483
16.17.2. Step two: calculation of the radiation field (<i>air-kerma in air</i>) in the occupied area without shielding	484
16.17.3. Step three: attenuation by shielding barriers	484
16.18. TYPICAL LINEAR ACCELERATOR INSTALLATION	486
16.18.1. Workload	488
16.18.2. Calculation of primary barrier transmission factor B_{pri}	488
16.18.3. Calculation of the scatter barrier transmission factor B_{scat}	488
16.18.4. Calculation of the leakage barrier transmission factor B_{leak}	489
16.18.5. Determination of barrier thickness	489
16.18.6. Consideration of neutron production in a high-energy linac	490
16.18.7. Door of a linear accelerator room	490
16.18.8. Other considerations	491
16.19. SHEILDING DESIGN FOR BRACHYTHERAPY FACILITIES	491
<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	492
 <i>LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS</i>	496
 <i>ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</i>	497
 <i>LIST OF SYMBOLS</i>	501
 <i>SUBJECT INDEX</i>	505
 <i>BIBLIOGRAPHY ON RADIATION ONCOLOGY PHYSICS</i>	519

This publication is aimed at students and teachers involved in teaching programmes in field of medical radiation physics, and it covers the basic medical physics knowledge required in the form of a syllabus for modern radiation oncology. The information will be useful to those preparing for professional certification exams in radiation oncology, medical physics, dosimetry or radiotherapy technology. Download (pdf, 6.88 Mb) Donate Read. Epub | FB2 | mobi | txt | RTF. Review of Radiation Oncology Physics: by terrybear11 3922 views. Computer network by Samiul Ehsan 3337 views. This book is dedicated to students and teachers involved in programmes that train professionals for work in radiation oncology. It provides a compilation of facts on the physics as applied to radiation oncology and as such will be useful to graduate students and residents in medical physics programmes, to residents in radiation oncology, and to students in dosimetry and radiotherapy technology programmes. The level of understanding of the material covered will, of course, be different for the various student groups; however, the basic language and knowledge for all student groups will be the same. Download Citation on ResearchGate | BOOK REVIEW: Radiation Oncology Physics: A Handbook for Teachers and Students | The full text of this book review is given in the PDF file. An attempt for the first application of this external radiation therapy technique in Greece took place at the Radiation Therapy Unit of 2(nd) Department of Radiology of University of Athens at University General Hospital "Attikon". TSEB modality was developed on a linear accelerator VARIAN Clinac 2100C.