Real-time prostate motion evaluation during intensity-modulated radiotherapy; an assessment of time dependency of intrafraction motion

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Purpose

- The prostate location can change systematically during the treatment course while fluctuating randomly around its mean daily position.
- Systematic and random variations in prostate location can also occur during daily treatment fractions.
- The purpose of this study was to quantitatively and describe prostate intrafraction motion using real-time electromagnetic transponder detection in a cohort of patients treated with classic intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT).
- Furthermore, this study also sought to identify intrafraction time trends, if any, in the prostate motion.

Methods

- Sixty-eight supine prostate patients each implanted with three electromagnetic transponders and underwent a course of 39 fractions of definitive IMRT formed the basis of this study.
- Daily localization was based on transponder detection, with weekly independent validation using volumetric imaging.
- Intra-treatment target motion was monitored continuously by the Calypso System with a 4-mm action level for post-localization intra-treatment positional corrections.
- Population statistics were calculated and the effect of treatment duration on random and systematic errors was evaluated.
- The fraction of time the prostate was displaced by > 1, > 2, > 3 and > 4 mm was calculated for each session and patient.
- The frequencies of displacements after initial patient positioning were analyzed over time.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (min)</th>
<th>LR</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>SI</th>
<th>RE</th>
<th>AP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>-0.11</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-16</td>
<td>-0.16</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>-0.10</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: LR, SI, and AP systematic error (SE) and random error (RE), computed at discrete intrafraction location changes.

- The probability of motion increased with treatment duration and was most significant in the anterior-posterior direction (AP) and least in the left-right (LR) direction (Table 1 and Figure 1A-C).
- Overall, prostate displacement > 4 mm in the LR, superior-inferior (SI), AP directions were non-negligible; 0.8%, 2.6%, and 3.8% of the total treatment time, respectively (Figure 1D).
- Considerable variability in prostate motion was observed among the cohort; the probability of a > 4-mm, > 3-mm, > 2-mm and > 1-mm displacement ranging from 0.0 – 9.8%, 0.4 – 15.4%, 1.3 – 32.9% and 12.4 – 58.6%, respectively.

Conclusions

- Intrafraction motion was found to be patient-specific suggesting individualized management approaches.
- The likelihood of prostate displacement increased with elapsed treatment time:
  - Indicating the relevance of prompt initiation of dose administration post patient positioning/repositioning.
- Suggesting temporal dependency of intrafraction uncertainties be taken into consideration in order to avoid bias in margin assessment.
- The temporal dependence of intrafraction motion was found to be much more significant in the SI and AP directions than in the LR direction.