

Patients and methods. In ONCOSUR and CROASA between January 2010 and December 2012 we have treated 16 patients (50% female) with 45 brain metastases and mean age of 53.63 years (33–68). A total of 21 treatments have been performed. Our GTV margin was of 2–3 mm. We have evaluated clinical, therapeutic data and acute toxicity.

Results. Primary tumors were 7 breasts, 3 melanomas, 5 lungs, and 1 esophagus. Only 6 patients were also treated with whole brain radiotherapy (WBRT). The radiotherapy techniques used were: 15 Volume Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT); 1 Intense Modulated Therapy Step and Shoot (IMRT S-S); 1 Dynamic Arc Therapy (DART); and 4 3D Conformal Radiotherapy (3DCRT). The hypofractionated schemes more used were: 6 Gy × 6 fx (4 cases) and 10 Gy × 3 fx (6 cases). All patients received 2 fx per week. A variable positioning accuracy of 1–4 mm has been reported for frameless stereotactic systems. In our series, IGRT repositioning mean accuracy was: X = 0.18 mm (0.01–0.44); Y = 0.23 mm (0.06–0.66); and Z = 0.20 mm (0.01–0.40). Acute side effects were not detected. With a mean follow-up of 10.35 months (2–30), 6 patients are alive, and 10 are died. The causes of death were progression in: brain 2 patients (no WBRT); lung 3 patients; liver 1 patient; unknown 3 patients and general deterioration 1 patient.

Conclusions. Frameless SRS is an effective and comfortable treatment in the management of brain metastases. Non-invasive mask fixation system plus IGRT is associated with a high repositioning accuracy with no errors up to 3 mm.

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Gamma-Knife surgery for craniopharyngioma: Review of 49 cases

N. Martínez Moreno¹, J. Pérez Bovet², E. Kusak¹, R. Martínez Álvarez²

¹ Hospital Ruber Internacional, Unidad de Radiocirugía, Spain

² Hospital Universitario de Girona Doctor Josep Trueta, Servicio de Neurocirugía, Spain



Objective. Craniopharyngioma is a sellar region neoplasm. Although histologically benign, it may cause visual and endocrinological alterations and it has tendency to develop cysts and a high recurrence rate, representing a clinical challenge. Treatment is not standardized. Therapeutic options being open or transsphenoidal surgery, cyst drainage, external or intrasellar radiation therapy and radiosurgery, even chemotherapy. To achieve better tumor control and reduce iatrogenesis (panhypopituitarism, optic pathway lesion, hypothalamic lesion), there is a tendency towards management with surgery followed by irradiation of the remaining tumor, treatment that is superior to surgery alone. We present our experience with Gamma-Knife radiosurgery as the radiation treatment of choice.

Methods and patients. A retrospective review of the 49 cases of craniopharyngioma treated between 1993 and 2010 has been performed. 16 of those patients were children (age under 15 years). Mean age was 32 years (ranged: 3–69). Forty four cases had undergone one or various previous surgeries. 6 patients had received previous radiation therapy and 1 had received chemotherapy. In 8 patients a stereotactic drainage of cysts was performed in concomitance with radiosurgery. Clinically, 26 patients had hormonal alterations and 46 patients had visual symptoms.

Results. After an average follow-up of 45 months. 4 patients needed further treatment (surgery or chemotherapy) and only 1 experienced tumor progression in the long term. 97% of the patients showed clinical improvement or stabilization. Visual impairments tend to improve, whether immediately or subsequently, while hormonal alterations usually persist. In 17% cyst drainage was necessary to improve delayed worsening of visual impairment without solid tumor progression.

Conclusion. In the context of a multi-disciplinary approach to craniopharyngioma, Gamma-Knife radiosurgery offers excellent long-term tumor control, without the significant side-effects of other treatments. The results we present are comparable and add further experience to other published series. Gamma-Knife radiosurgery is a simple and well tolerated technique with results that can be reproduced worldwide and without interference with other procedures that may be necessary during the course of the disease.

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High precision SBRT using eXaCradle and ConeBeamCT

E. Montero Perea¹, S. Velazquez Miranda², M. Ortiz Seidel³

¹ Hospital Virgen del Rocío, Oncología Integral, Spain

² Hospital Virgen del Rocío, Radiofísica Hospitalaria, Spain

³ Complejo Hospitalario Virgen Macarena, Radiofísica Hospitalaria, Spain



Introduction. Three techniques have been developed to reduce SBRT toxicity: tracking, gating and diaphragmatic compression. eXaCradle changes that paradigm.

Purpose. The eXaCradle reduces SBRT movements. We want to show the high precision SBRT using eXaCradle, slow-CT and ConeBeamCT.

Methods and materials. We work with eXaCradle that combines 8 points of compression that give an enormous quantity of degrees of freedom to customize the compression of every patient, to every tumor. The following procedure is carried out: (a) A Slow-CT of patient inside the eXaCradle is acquired without any type of compression and in free breathing. (b) On the movement blurring the combination of compressions most according to the manufacturer recommendations is decided. (c) A new Slow-CT* is acquired. (d) A third hold breathing CT is acquired. (e) Organs at risk and tumor must be contouring on the third CT. (f) The third CT and the

Slow-CT* are fused. Around the tumor will appear its movement blurring, it is the ITV. (g) We design treatment on the Slow-CT*. (h) In the ConeBeamCT the tumor blurring must not exceed the PTV. (i) Patient is treated on Elekta-Synergy linac. (j) After every treatment we repeat the acquisition IGRT and check the modifications during the treatment.

Results. Up to date a total of 10 patients have been treated, 9 primary tumors and a local relapse: 3–5 sessions and 40–50 Gy dose range. CT/PET images show complete response in 8 patients after 6 months. There were no G3 pneumonitis and no G2 esophagus toxicity. The systematic error of **intra-fraction movements were 0.4 mm, 0.5 mm and 0.9 mm (x,y,z) and the random error were 0.5 mm, 0.5 mm and 1 mm (x,y,z).** Only in one patient the treatment time exceeded 12 min.

Conclusions. ExaCradel and ConeBemaCT form a precise and rapid system as SBRT technology.

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Hypothalamic hamartomas: Clinical experience in 23 cases treated with Gamma-Knife surgery

N. Martínez Moreno¹, N. Lorite Díaz², E. Kusak¹, R. Martínez Álvarez¹

¹ Hospital Ruber Internacional, Unidad de Radiocirugía, Spain

² Hospital Universitario de Girona Doctor Josep Trueta, Servicio de Neurocirugía, Spain



Hypothalamic hamartomas (HH) arise as a result of an incorrect embryonic cell migration. Most patients with a HH are asymptomatic. Gelastic seizures in association with HH were described some years ago and the majority of these patients present medically refractory epilepsy. They can develop a severe epileptic encephalopathy associated to behavior and cognitive disorders and precocious puberty (related to secretory granules). Surgery can be an effective treatment but it has been related to important morbidity and mortality because of their location and relation to critical structures (optical pathways). The objective of the present study is to evaluate our results with Gamma-Knife surgery (GKS) treatment in these lesions. **Methods.** We have treated by GKS 30 patients with HH from 2002 to nowadays. We retrospectively reviewed our prospectively collected data and analyze 23 of these patients. This series includes 14 women and 9 men, presenting lesions from 8 cc to 0.2 cc. Mean age was 17 years old (ranged: 16 months to 45 years). For diagnosis and planning Video-EEG, CT and stereotactic MRI (T1, T2, Flair and T1 post-gadolinium, using axial, coronal and sagittal sections) were used.

Results. 8 cases had been operated previously. The mean coverage dose has been 18.5 Gy. More than 70% of the patients had a positive outcome, even though most of them still need medication. After 2 years follow-up, 5 cases were re-treated due to medically refractory symptom persistence or reappearance. The mean coverage dose used was 17 Gy. In 2 of these 5 patients a favorable evolution was observed.

Conclusions. In the treatment and control of medically refractory epilepsy secondary to HH we considered GKS as an effective, safe and reliable option. Prognostic factors that should be considered are evolution time (the precocity of treatment) and other epileptic focus absence. Other factors are lesion size and relation-distance between the HH and the critical structures. The possibility of achieving a correct coverage dose of more than 17 Gy irradiating the entire lesion depends of them. These facts have been confirmed in our series.

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Modelling and commissioning of a radiosurgery cone system for trigeminal neuralgia

L. Pereira Ferradas¹, M. Mera Iglesias², D. Aramburu Núñez¹, A. Teijeiro¹, B. Andrade¹, J. Vazquez¹, D. Medal¹, F. Salvador Gomez¹, M. Salgado¹, A. Lopez Medina¹

¹ Hospital do Meixoeiro, Radiofísica, Spain

² Hospital do Meixoeiro, Spain



Objective. LINAC-based radiosurgery is commonly used for trigeminal neuralgia treatment. Due to the small size and spherical or elliptical geometry of the target, small cones are suitable for this technique.

Materials and methods. A radiosurgery cone set (Brainlab) of diameter 5, 6, 7.5 and 10 mm was modelled for a 6MV linac PRIMUS (Siemens). Reference dose was measured using a camera PTW Farmer type 30013. Output factor, PDDs and OARs were measured for each cone in a PTW water phantom MP3 using a diode detector PTW 60012. Correction in output factors is up to 6% for the cone of 5mm. For commissioning the TPS: accuracy of monitor units (MU) calculations, isocentre localization, punctual dose with MOSFET, and dose profiles with Gafchromics films.

Results. We performed several verifications: (1) Manual calculation of MU performed with measured data shows a maximum difference of 1.3%. (2) We used a Gafchromic EBT2 placed in the stereotactic localizer with a pin to locate isocentre. After a CT scan, pin delineated and used like isocentre to deliver the treatment. Isocentre localization was less than 0.5 mm. (3) We scanned an anthropomorphic Alderson Rando phantom head with a MOSFET detector placed inside. We localized the CT scan using iPlan, marked the isocentre at the MOSFET and delivered treatment. The dose agreement was for the 10-mm cone, lesser than 5% (MOSFET uncertainty: 3%). (4) A film was placed at depth of 15 mm in a water phantom and an arc of 120° was delivered. We compared measured data with TPS calculation using OmniPro® (IBA). A good agreement is showed for inplane and crossplane.