On Point

Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer News & Insights from SkinCure Oncology

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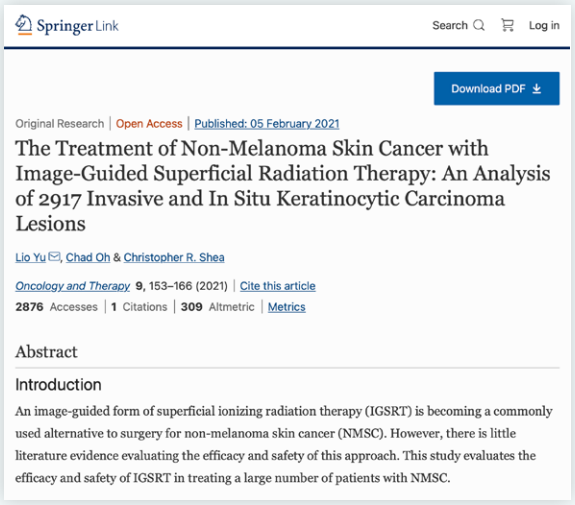
Welcome to *On Point*, nonmelanoma skin cancer news and insights from SkinCure Oncology which will periodically present current data on skin cancer, research findings, legislative and regulatory developments, case studies, and more.



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The Treatment of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer with Image-Guided Superficial Radiation Therapy: An Analysis of 2917 Invasive and In Situ Keratinocytic Carcinoma Lesions

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Abstract

Introduction

An image-guided form of superficial ionizing radiation therapy (IGSRT) is becoming a commonly used alternative to surgery for non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC). However, there is little literature evidence evaluating the efficacy and safety of this approach. This study evaluates the efficacy and safety of IGSRT in treating a large number of patients with NMSC.

A ground-breaking study published last year in the peer-reviewed journal Oncology & Therapy showed a 99.3% cure rate in treating basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas using non-surgical Image-Guided Superficial Radiotherapy (Image-Guided SRT).

In this inaugural issue of *On Point*, we offer a brief look at image-guided technology that is being used in more than 200 dermatology practices in 35 states to treat nonmelanoma skin cancers.

Superficial Radiotherapy, SRT, based on radiation therapy techniques first utilized by dermatologists in the 1920s, had remained in use with little innovation for the better part of the past century. In 2015, however, new technology was introduced, and image-guidance was integrated with SRT in a next-generation device.

Image-Guided SRT's main differentiating factor is that it includes image-guided mapping of the lesion for each fraction. Other advances in the technology that come with Image-Guided SRT are the ability to provide, record and verify system precision tracking of treatment progress, on-board dosimetry, and additional quality and safety assurance. Typically, patients receive a series of short (30-second) treatments, two to four times per week, over several weeks. Unlike Mohs surgery, Image-Guided SRT, which is generally performed in a dermatologist's office, does not require anesthesia or an incision.

When using SRT technology—whether the first- or second-generation of SRT or the third-generation Image-Guided SRT—the procedure requires the practitioner to use "simulation" in order to properly target the lesion by identifying the breadth, depth, size, shape, and type of lesion being treated. This allows the radiation to be properly administered to treat the precise composition of the lesion. Unlike SRT, which required mere visual simulation of the lesion, Image-Guided SRT's simulation is conducted through ultrasound images and results in much more accurate, exacting assessment and treatment of the lesion.

This simulation supported with ultrasound guidance is a central aspect of Image-Guided SRT and permits each treatment to be precisely administered. For this reason, use of Image-Guided SRT leads to notable increases in efficacy of the treatments at a level not seen with the previous iterations of the SRT technology.

Importantly, to be effective, image-guidance requires lesions and normal tissue to be evaluated in an adaptive manner to ensure proper superficial radiotherapy delivery. In the case of Image-Guided SRT, this is done through high-frequency ultrasound so as to not add any unnecessary radiation to the skin. When using Image-Guided SRT, clinicians no longer have to assume

or simply guess that a lesion or normal surrounding tissue has changed, requiring adjustment. Instead, they can assess in real time, with each treatment, the exact nature of the lesion. This leads to better outcomes for patients.

As noted above, a recent peer-reviewed study evaluated the efficacy and safety of Image-Guided SRT and concluded that "Image-Guided SRT should be considered as a first-line option for treating NMSC tumors in suitable early-stage patients." The study went on to conclude that Image-Guided SRT, when compared to SRT, was found to have a 2-8.9% improvement in cure rate for basal cell cancers, a 2.2-18.1% improvement in cure rate for squamous cell cancers, and an overall cure rate of over 99%, equaling that of Mohs surgery without the attendant adverse effects. This study clearly demonstrates the status of Image-Guided SRT as a standard of care—and the "first-line option"—for certain patients diagnosed with NMSC.

Further, Image-Guided SRT's "see as you treat" technology facilitates the adaptive radiotherapy protocol responsible for its high cure rate, and it provides an added benefit to patients – visible proof that the tumor is shrinking, and with that, improved patient compliance is achieved.

For more information about Image-Guided SRT, please visit www.SkinCureOncology.com.

Louisiana and Michigan Governors Proclaim Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Week

Governors John Bel Edwards of Louisiana and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan proclaimed Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Week on May 15-21 and May 23-29, respectively. They encouraged their states' residents to "learn about risk factors, preventive strategies, and available treatment options." The governors noted that patients should discuss treatment options with their doctors and healthcare providers in a timely fashion, and they referenced Image-Guided SRT as a treatment option.

Illinois Congressman Bill Foster Shared His Family's Skin Cancer History & Discussed Treatment Options

Against the backdrop of Skin Cancer Awareness Month, U.S. Representative Bill Foster of Illinois published a statement in the *May 12 Congressional Record* about "the importance of knowing the risks of common skin cancers and treatment options." A skin cancer survivor, the congressman shared his story and that of his father who died from an untreated skin cancer. He noted that treatment options today "include both surgery and non-surgical radiotherapy."

SkinCure Oncology is the world leader in providing a comprehensive model for the delivery of Image-Guided Superficial Radiotherapy (Image-Guided SRT), the most advanced non-surgical technology for the treatment of common skin cancers. The company partners with quality-focused dermatologists and Mohs surgeons to bring cancer center-level radiotherapy treatment to physician offices. To date, SkinCure Oncology is working with more than 200 dermatology practices across the country, and more than 40,000 patients have been treated with Image-Guided SRT over the last five years. Learn more about the company at SkinCureOncology.com, and visit GentleCure.com for helpful consumer and patient information.