



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

DERMATOLOGIC RADIOTHERAPY: ITS ROLE IN XXI CENTURY

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INTRODUCTION: Dermatologic radiotherapy is a useful tool in the management of many skin neoplasms. Non-melanoma skin cancer incidence is increasing proportionally to life expectancy length. Unfortunately this technique is nearly abandoned by dermatologists since the difficulties in training, the large employ of surgical techniques and the availability of dedicated machines in Oncologic Radiotherapy Units.

OBJECTIVE: To report the experience in this field gathered at the Dermatology Department of Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico of Milan, where an outpatient service dedicated to phototherapy and radiotherapy of skin diseases is still fully operating since 1905, thanks to the periodical updating of dermatologic radiotherapy devices.

MATERIALS: In 2017 the total number of RT courses were 2547, involving 150 patients, 60% affected with basal cell carcinoma, 18% affected with squamous cell carcinoma, 16% affected with primitive skin lymphoma, 4% affected with keloids (in post-operative radiation treatment) and 2% with Kaposi's Sarcoma.

The numbers reproduce the yearly distribution of treated diseases, including a high number of problematic situations: relapsing neoplasms, incomplete excision, difficult localization, extensive clinical pictures, elderly people with multiple comorbidities.

In such circumstances the collaboration with health physics is of unquestionable support to prepare personalized treatment plans which could afford the best therapeutic results minimizing side effects.

CONCLUSIONS: The presentation of some emblematic cases (skin lymphoma, squamous cell carcinoma of the scalp, basal cell carcinoma of head district) is of utmost importance to recall the role of modern dermatologic radiation therapy in the landscape of available therapies in skin oncology.

