



Effective Health Care

External Beam Conformal Radiotherapy for Tumors of the Abdomen and Pelvis

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- External beam conformal radiotherapy for tumors of the abdomen and pelvis is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available at this time; however, it will be considered for a potential technical brief by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.
 - To see a description of a technical brief, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/research-for-policymakers-researchers-and-others/>.
 - If this topic is developed into a technical brief, key questions will be drafted and posted on the AHRQ Web site. To sign up for notification when this and other EHC Program topics are posted, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator: Organization

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of different types of external beam, conformal photon-based radiation therapies for the treatment of cancer of the upper abdomen (e.g., stomach, hepatobiliary tract, pancreas), the lower abdomen (e.g., anorectal locations), or the pelvis, including but not limited to gynecologic (e.g., cervical, uterine) locations.

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Population(s): Patients with tumors of the upper abdomen, lower abdomen, or pelvis, typically undergoing External Beam Radiotherapy (EBRT) as part of a multimodality treatment plan

Intervention(s): Intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT)

Comparator(s): 3D-CRT

Outcome(s): Survival, quality of life, adverse events

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. What is the comparative effectiveness of IMRT compared to 3D-CRT for tumors of the upper and lower abdomen and pelvis?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Radiation therapy is often used as part of a multimodality approach to therapy of patients who have cancers located within the abdominal and pelvic compartments. The major goal of radiation therapy is to deliver an adequate dose of ionizing radiation to the tumor volume and its margins to eradicate the lesion, while sparing uninvolved tissues or organs to the extent possible. Over the past several decades, methods to plan and deliver radiation therapy have evolved in ways that permit more precise targeting of tumors.
- There are many questions regarding the use of radiotherapy, and a technical brief could help address some of the following issues:
 - How often older forms of radiotherapy are still used
 - What data is reported in the literature, including patient populations, patient positioning, dosing calculations, etc.
 - Potential harms of treatments
 - Potential roles of the therapy (use in multimodal treatment and choice between different radiotherapy techniques).