

IMRT / VMAT

Dear SASCRO colleagues,

SASCRO has issued a statement on appropriate clinical indications IMRT / VMAT as part of Universal Health Care Coverage in South Africa. This is on the SASCRO website at <http://www.sascro.co.za/downloads/IMRT-VMAT.pdf>

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy/Volumetric Modulated Arc Radiotherapy (IMRT/VMAT) technology has advanced rapidly in the last 10 years and is now considered an appropriate and cost-effective treatment for many cancers.

Most modern linear accelerators have the capability of delivering IMRT/VMAT. Radiation and Clinical Oncologists, planning and treating RTTs and Medical Physicists are now trained in this form of radiation therapy.

This is not well perceived by many, be they in the private or public sector, who fund either treatment or the staff needed for quality assurance of treatment. Authorisation and reimbursement of this modality are often tedious, requiring motivations for established clinical indications and the reproduction of references which are 10 years old.

This statement on the appropriate indications for IMRT/VMAT is neither a protocol nor a definitive recommendation. SASCRO recognizes that 3D CRT may still be used for many of these indications. A treatment decision would be dependent on the available equipment and local skills and competencies of the whole team. For this reason, the document highlights the importance of good quality assurance in the safe delivery of IMRT/VMAT.

The statement is largely based on an original document written by Dr David Eedes. The SASCRO Committee thanks Dr Eedes for his scholarly and valuable input.

As with all documents, its contents will be regularly reviewed and updated as needed.

Kind Regards,
Raymond Abratt
SASCRO Chairperson