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The future place of protons in radiotherapy

Meaningful large scale randomized trials with protons versus photons are unlikely. Instead the pre-treatment comparison of PBT versus IMRT in individual patients using pre-set metrics of plan quality will be necessary for funding. This assessment would be made objectively by treatment planning software systems. Payers, both government and insurers, will use these criteria to assess the value of PBT in an individual using a comparative equation incorporating tumor control, late toxicity and overall lifetime costs of care. Such analyses will determine the level of the therapeutic plateau in the relationship of cost to clinical outcome gain. The range of published estimates varies enormously from 1.5% (UK, NHS) to 20% in the US. The majority of European strategic plans are assuming a 10-15% utilization of protons in patients treated with radical radiotherapy.

Biography

Karol Sikora is Chief Medical Officer of Proton Partners International. He was the founder of Cancer Partners UK which has created UK's largest independent UK cancer network with private equity. He was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Cancer Medicine at Imperial College School of Medicine and is still honorary Consultant Oncologist at Hammersmith Hospital, London. He is Dean and Professor of Medicine at Britain's first independent Medical School at the University of Buckingham and a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. He has published over 300 papers and written or edited 20 books including Treatment of Cancer - the standard British postgraduate textbook, now in its sixth edition. His new book for patients The street-wise patient's guide to cancer survival has just been published.

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