

Singapore Office

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Clinical Practice

TCI Radiation Oncology Clinical Quality Improvement Programme

The Cancer Institute Radiation Oncology has developed a novel formal Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) as an integral component of our patient care and management. It provides a platform for excellence in treatment delivery via strict quality assurance and continuing medical education. The QIP requires compulsory participation by all members of sections within the department and aims to ensure that patients are managed with the latest treatment techniques in the most accurate and precise manner.

The Programme was established in June 2001 and comprises clinical audit of doctor's performance and treatment techniques. Patient treatments are independently reviewed by other clinicians to ensure that the optimal treatment is being delivered. Quality assurance checks of RT delivery are coordinated and reported to the programme. Analysis is undertaken and measures taken to improve treatment delivery, thus maximizing the benefits of cure for our patients. Careful assessment of any treatment incident is undertaken in the meeting with constructive review. The outcomes from the meeting are measured.

The international team of doctors who work in TCI Radiation Oncology (Australia, US, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore) meet weekly at the QIP and allows the concepts of the best treatments from around the world to be brought to Singapore. The major aim is to continually improve the performance of staff members, thus developing greater levels of patient care in the treatment of cancer. This Programme developed in Singapore, has been so successful that it is now incorporated as a basic component of care in Australasian radiation oncology departments and being assessed by US centres.

This programme has received extensive international exposure and is being modeled by overseas radiation oncology units. 4 peer-reviewed publications in major cancer journals have resulted from the work performed between 2001-2005:

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Leong CN, Shakespeare TP, Mukherjee RK, Wynne CJ, Lee KM, Zhang, Lu JJ, Back MF. Effect of an integrated continuing medical education (CME) and quality improvement (QI) program on radiation oncologist (RO) clinical practice. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2006 Sep 15

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