

BenigNews

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Information Letter of the German Working Group
„Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases“ and Cooperating Groups

Inside this Issue:

- ☛ A Long-term Follow-up Study after Retro-orbital Irradiation for Graves' Ophthalmopathy Page 2
- ☛ Radiotherapy in Painful Degenerative Conditions of the Skeleton Page 3
- ☛ Radiotherapy at Peyronie's Disease Page 4
- ☛ Morbus Dupuytren - Documentation Page 6
- ☛ Excerpt of the ICD-10 Classification Page 13
- ☛ Heterotopic Ossification Radiation Therapy Prophylaxis About the Hip Joint - a Multi-Center Study Page 14

Editor's Corner

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Radiation Medicine,

This second issue of **BenigNews** follows the first issue which was handed out to all participants of the 3rd German Conference on Benign Diseases, which was successfully held in May 2000 in Essen with more than 170 participants. The first issue was also mailed out to more than 300 individuals which had participated at the last ESTRO Conference on Benign Diseases in Brussels. **BenigNews** has also been distributed via internet. So far, we have received a very positive response from many individuals in Germany and other countries. We would encourage our colleagues to distribute **BenigNews** to other colleagues so that the interest in our newsletter can continue to grow.

An increasing number of papers have been submitted to the past ESTRO and the upcoming ASTRO conferences. Many have been accepted for oral and/or poster presentation. In addition, several papers have been published in the "Green" and "Red Journal", one of which was on "Patterns of Care Study on Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases in Germany". Several other papers have covered clinical and / or biological aspects of "Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases". We should continue on this successful track. However, in the near future more prospective clinical trials and treatment optimization studies are required to establish and secure the role of radiation therapy within evidence-based medicine.

In this issue, we present the evaluation of the recent "Patterns of care study for heterotopic ossification prophylaxis using pre- or postoperative radiotherapy". The study demonstrates that radiotherapy is a widely accepted treatment for ossification prophylaxis throughout Germany. In some areas, however, the limited availability of radiotherapy facilities and the high transportation costs prevent further implementations.

This issue of **BenigNews** contains literature reviews and a comprehensive list of ICD 10 codes of benign diseases for appropriate clinical reporting and documentation - special forms are included for the documentation and evaluation of radiotherapy for early stage Dupuytren's Contracture (DC). In addition, several articles are included reporting on epidemiological (Hesselmann et al.: *A long-term follow-up study after retro-orbital irradiation for Graves' ophthalmopathy*) and clinical aspects (Schüller et al.: *Radiotherapy in painful degenerative conditions of the skeleton*) of radiotherapy for benign diseases. Unfortunately, the updated congress calendar will not include a 2nd European Conference on Benign Diseases in 2001 - sadly, the ESTRO board has not been decisive about its own perspective in this field. Nevertheless, a working group has been established within the GEC-ESTRO, which has developed guidelines for vascular brachy-therapy. At least the topic of vascular radiotherapy will be covered in an ESTRO workshop, which will take place in Vienna in February 2001. Despite politics, our clinical practice and biological research efforts in benign diseases have to continue. We thank our advertising sponsors for their financial support allowing us to distribute this volume for free.

We would appreciate any communication with us, and comments and suggestions for the upcoming issues.

Sincerely Yours,

M. Heinrich Seegenschmiedt, Essen (Germany)
& Hans-Bruno Makoski, Duisburg (Germany)

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Co-Editors:

Prof. Dr. med. M. H. Seegenschmiedt, Essen, Germany

Prof. Dr. med. H.-Br. Makoski, Duisburg, Germany

Managing Editor and Publishing Office:

Dr. med. Oliver Micke, Münster, Germany

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