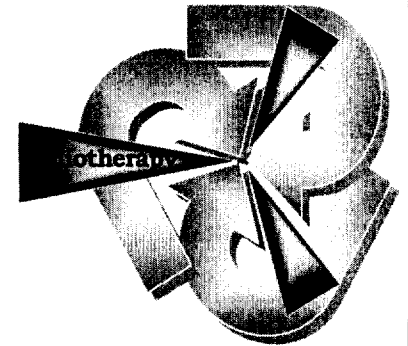


# Benign News

Founded in 2000



for Benign Diseases

Official Letter of the German Cooperative Group  
on Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases" (GCG-BD)  
and Cooperating Groups

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## Editor's Corner

### Dear Colleagues and Friends of Radiation Medicine,

Our new LOGO for **Benign<sup>ews</sup>** can be seen for the first time on the right top front page. With a little imagination the three letters, "R" for radiotherapy, "B" for benign and "D" for diseases, can be found between three bending arrows and three beaming triangles. As in oncology the three arrows symbolize the different approaches that meet this specialized medical field: pharmacology, surgery and radiotherapy. While drugs and surgery are sometimes limited or may not be the treatment of choice for the patient, the third option - radiation therapy - offers a possible alternative.

Without doubt, interdisciplinary cooperation in the various medical fields is the corner-stone for the successful application of radiation therapy for benign diseases. Without understanding the point of view of other specialists, e.g. the orthopedic surgeon or the cardiologist, radiotherapists will have a difficult time communicating their treatment options and how they can impact on the clinical indication process. Thus, it will be very important to have a professional basis for all interdisciplinary applications of ionizing radiation. Few in our field would like to lose the newly developed field of cardiovascular or peripheral arterial radiotherapy to other specialists who do know less of radiation biology, radiation physics and potential benefits and hazards of clinical radiotherapy applications.

In this issue we are advertising the internet version of **Benign<sup>ews</sup>**, which has been available since October 2000. It has already received more than 1,000 hits. We would like to encourage comments and proposals for improvement of our internet version.

A report from the recent ASTRO conference in Boston summarized the various refresher courses, panels and papers which are presented on topics dealing with radiotherapy for benign diseases. The papers addressed several topics of clinical and biological aspects of "Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases".

The fact that these oral and poster presentations were well accepted, demonstrates a successful track for our field. Other topics presented in this issue include the recent advances in vascular radiation medicine and a report of prophylactic irradiation in patients with resected keloids.

Again, **Benign<sup>ews</sup>** contains special forms for documentation and evaluation of radiotherapy for painful joints including painful degenerative osteoarthritis and insertion tendinitis at various body sites. We will continue to present these tools in upcoming issues. This should help to structure clinical work including documentation and evaluation and promote future prospective clinical research. Additional suggestions and improvements are always welcome; we would appreciate the appropriate citation of these documentation forms when they are applied in clinical trials. This issue is concluded with a rare case report on a successful treatment of a Gorham-Stout syndrome with massive osteolysis of the cervical spine.

Our calendar has dates of several scientific conferences occurring in 2001 and which include radiotherapy of benign diseases. One is the 4th Annual Meeting of the German Cooperative Group on "Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases" which will take place on May 4 - 5, 2001 in Essen. Hopefully in 2002 or 2003 we will, in partnership with ESTRO, schedule the 2nd European Conference on Benign Diseases. For the next **Benign<sup>ews</sup>** we would appreciate further conversation, comments and suggestions from all readers of the upcoming issues by via phone, fax, internet or personal communication.

Sincerely Yours,

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& Hans-Bruno Makoski, Duisburg (Germany)**

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