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Electronic brachytherapy replacement of iridium-192

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The replacement of radionuclides used for cancer therapy with accelerators offers several advantages for both patients and medical staff. These include the elimination of: unwanted dose, specialized storage and transportation, and isotope production/replacement. Several electronic brachytherapy devices exist, and typically utilize an x-ray tube around 50 keV. These have primarily been used for skin cancer, though intraoperative applications are becoming possible. For several types of cancer, Iridium-192 has been the only brachytherapy treatment option, due to its high dose rate and 380 keV average energy. An accelerator-based alternative to Ir-192 has been developed, comprised of a 9.4 GHz, 1 MeV compact brazeless accelerator, narrow drift tube, and target. The accelerator is supported and positioned through the use of a robotic arm, allowing for remote delivery of radiation for internal cancer treatment. Preliminary results including dose rate and profile and plans for complete system demonstration will be presented.

Footnotes

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