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Topic (read-only)

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Automated VMAT Planning for breast cancer radiotherapy

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Purpose/Objective (read-only)

Automated radiotherapy planning can improve efficiency, plan quality, and reduce inter-observer variability. Two-step workflows combining dose prediction and dose mimicking have shown promising results [1,2]. The purpose of this study was to develop and evaluate end-to-end fully automated VMAT planning strategies for breast cancer radiotherapy.

Material/Methods (read-only)

Two automated planning (AP) approaches were developed. AP-Method1 used a machine learning-based dose prediction trained on 48 VMAT plans from a European center using a moderate hypofractionation regimen (40.05 Gy/15 fractions) [3]. AP-Method2 used an analytical formula for generating a dose prediction [4]. Both methods shared the same dose-mimicking step to generate DICOM RT plans.

External validation was performed on 10 patients. For each case, two automated VMAT plans were generated for a VersaHD linac, imported into RayStation for final dose calculation, and quantitatively compared with corresponding manual clinical plans using established evaluation criteria [3,5]. One physicist and two radiation oncologists reviewed the automated plans, adjusted normalization as needed, assessed clinical acceptability, and indicated their preferred method. Five cases underwent patient-specific QA to assess deliverability.

Results (read-only)

Automated plan generation averaged 8 minutes per case. Both AP methods produced plans that were clinically comparable or superior to manual ones, with improved CTV/PTV coverage and enhanced cardiac sparing (Table1). After minor normalization adjustments (mean 0.8%, range 0.4–1.4%), clinical acceptability was achieved in 90% and 93.3% of plans for AP-Method1 and

acceptability between expert pairs (1–2, 2–3, and 1–3) was 80% for AP-Method1 and 87% for AP-Method2, whereas plan preference agreement was limited to 33%.

Patient QA results demonstrated excellent deliverability, with 3%/2 mm gamma pass rates of 97% (AP-Method1) and 93% (AP-Method2).

Structure	DVH metric	Manual Plans (Gy)	AP-Method 1 (Gy)	AP- Method 2 (Gy)
CTV _{Breast}	D95%>38.0475 Gy	39.04 ± 0.13	39.4 ± 0.08	39.33 ± 0.09
CTV _{Breast}	D2%<42.0525 Gy	40.88 ± 0.29	41.02 ± 0.09	41.15 ± 0.13
CTV _{Breast}	D2cc<42.8535 Gy	41.17 ± 0.3	41.5 ± 0.31	41.68 ± 0.37
CTV _{Breast}	Dmax<44.055 Gy	42.09 ± 0.38	42.75 ± 0.46	42.91 ± 0.52
PTV _{Breast}	D95%>38.0475 Gy	38.06 ± 0.01	38.77 ± 0.31	38.98 ± 0.18
PTV _{Breast}	Dmax<44.055 Gy	42.31 ± 0.41	42.9 ± 0.33	43.15 ± 0.43
Heart	D10%<17 Gy	4.07 ± 0.52	2.94 ± 0.58	3.19 ± 0.61
Heart	D5%<16 Gy	4.96 ± 0.6	3.51 ± 0.74	3.75 ± 0.78
Heart	Dmean<2.4 Gy	2.36 ± 0.34	1.74 ± 0.34	1.99 ± 0.37
LAD Coronary	Dmax<17 Gy	5.77 ± 1.01	5.46 ± 1.88	5.2 ± 1.93
Breast_Right	Dmean<3 Gy	2.21 ± 0.27	1.88 ± 0.23	2.24 ± 0.24
Lung_Left	D15%<16 Gy	15.84 ± 1.17	13.31 ± 1.56	12.5 ± 1.04

Table 1. Quantitative evaluation of manual and automated plan solutions

Expert	Clinical acceptability		Plan preference		
	AP-Method 1	AP-Method 2	AP-Method 1	AP-Method 2	BOTH
Medical Physicist	90.0%	90.0%	40.0%	50.0%	10.0%
Radiation Oncologist 1	80.0%	90.0%	10.0%	90.0%	0.0%
Radiation Oncologist 2	100.0%	100.0%	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Mean among experts	90.0%	93.3%	43.3%	53.3%	3.3%

Table 2. Qualitative evaluation results

Conclusion (read-only)

Both AP methods successfully generated high-quality, clinically acceptable plans for breast cancer radiotherapy with minimal human intervention. These findings demonstrate that automated end-to-end VMAT planning is feasible, can improve plan consistency, efficiency, and quality, supporting integration into routine clinical workflows.

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure (read-only)

- ☒ I do not have a Conflict of Interest to disclose.
- ☐ I do have a Conflict of Interest to disclose.

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