

Session 2.1

Safe Cancer Treatment with Radiotherapy: Case of Estonia

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Challenge and IAEA input

Status of Radiotherapy in the 90's:

- Outdated and out-of-order equipment
- Depleted radiation sources
- Long waiting times
- Lack of trained staff
- Lack of training schemes and recognition
- Most prevalent: Breast and prostate cancers

IAEA contribution:

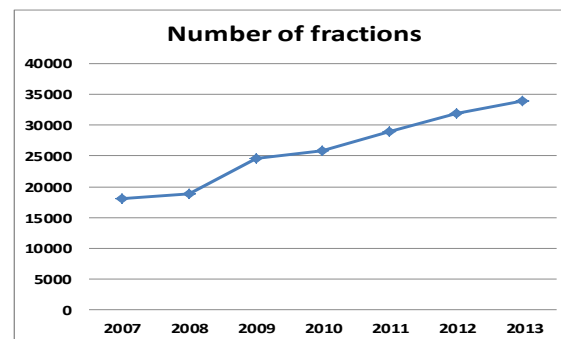
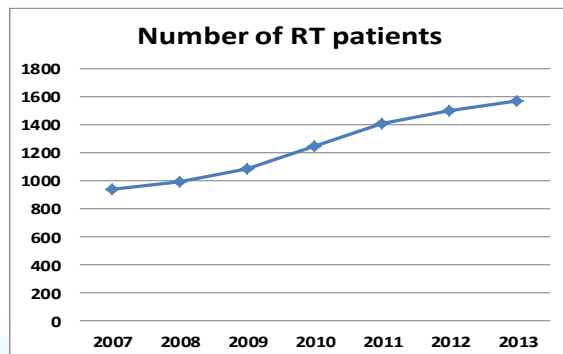
- Cost sharing for equipment purchase
- Training
- Expert advise
- Audits



Achievements

- Increased access to RT - shorter waiting times (less time from diagnoses to treatment) – **Improved treatment quality**
- Capacity building (Increased number of patients treated with radiotherapy) – **more patients treated with RT**
- Reduced machine down-time - **Improved treatment quality**
- Transition to modern technology (from 2D to 3D to IMRT) – reduced RT associated early and late toxicity (**Improved treatment quality**)
- Trained and motivated staff – **Safe and effective RT treatment**

All this raised the standard of care for all cancer patients in Estonia



Action Plan

- To hire more staff (Radiation Oncologists, Medical Physicists, RTTs)
- To train personnel in advanced radiotherapy techniques
- To implement the advanced radiotherapy techniques
- To participate in international research projects
- To provide training of healthcare professionals from other countries
- To become a centre of excellence for radiotherapy



THANK YOU

