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• Outdated and out-of-order equipment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