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DESCRIPTION

The overarching mission of Practical Radiation Oncology is to improve the quality of radiation oncology practice. PRO’s purpose is to document the state of current practice, providing background for those in training and continuing education for practitioners, through discussion and illustration of new techniques, evaluation of current practices, and publication of case reports. PRO strives to provide its readers content that emphasizes knowledge “with a purpose.” The content of PRO includes:

Original articles focusing on patient safety, quality measurement, or quality improvement initiatives
Original articles focusing on imaging, contouring, target delineation, simulation, treatment planning, immobilization, organ motion, and other practical issues
ASTRO guidelines, position papers, and consensus statements
Essays that highlight enriching personal experiences in caring for cancer patients and their families
Teaching cases that present a diagnostic, ethical, or management challenge.

PRO is the sister publication to the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics and Advances in Radiation Oncology. Learn more about which types of papers the journals typically accept.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Practical Radiation Oncology (PRO) is a peer-reviewed journal whose purpose is to document the state of radiation oncology practice. PRO publishes original clinical research related to the practice of radiation oncology and related disciplines. Concise manuscripts that focus on imaging, contouring, target delineation, simulation, treatment planning, immobilization, organ motion, patient safety, quality measurement, and other practical issues are of particular interest. PRO intends to provide its readers with content that emphasizes knowledge "with a purpose."

W. Robert Lee, M.D., M.S., M.Ed. serves as the journal’s Editor-in-Chief. He can be contacted at the Department of Radiation Oncology, Duke University Medical Center, Box 3085, Durham, NC 27710. Phone: (919) 668-5640; fax: (919) 668-7345; e-mail: pro@astro.org

PRO can be accessed online at www.practicalradonc.org.

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Article Types

Basic Original Report

Manuscript ≤ 4000 words, figures ≤ 8 references ≤ 50, authors ≤ 20
Required Elements: Cover letter (preferred) Title page Abstract (≤ 300 words) Blinded Manuscript References Figure Legends Uniform disclosure forms

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Teaching Case

Manuscript ≤ 1500 words, figures ≤ 8 references ≤ 50

Required Elements: Cover letter (preferred) Title page Abstract (≤ 300 words) Blinded Manuscript References Figure Legends Uniform disclosure forms

PRO invites case reports with high-resolution images, preferably in color (additional charges may be necessary), including X rays or scans of characteristic or classic conditions relevant to radiation oncology, for consideration in the Teaching Case section. All identifying information of patients, such as names, dates of birth, dates of service, or patient identification codes must be removed. If the case report or the image includes individually identifiable health information, authors must comply with the applicable privacy laws and obtain a HIPAA-compliant patient authorization form.

Technical Report

Manuscript ≤ 1500 words, figures ≤ 8 references ≤ 50

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PRO invites technical reports, which are brief 2- to 3-page descriptions of new developments, devices, or procedures. Technical Reports are concerned with innovations that might enhance practice or address specific challenges in radiation oncology.
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Manuscript ≤ 400 words, references ≤ 10

Required Elements: Title page Manuscript References Uniform disclosure forms

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**Miscellaneous**
Special Articles

Required Elements: Title page Abstract (≤ 300 words) Blinded Manuscript References Figure Legends Uniform disclosure forms

Special Articles are manuscripts whose content and style do not fall under the categories of Original Reports or Critical Reviews. These may include but are not limited to guidelines, summaries of consensus meetings, and other scholarly communications.

**Interesting Images**
Manuscript ≤ 400 words

Required Elements: Title page Manuscript Image Uniform disclosure forms

*PRO* invites interesting high-resolution images, preferably in color, including X rays or scans of characteristic or classic conditions relevant to radiation oncology. Exceptional images may be considered for the cover of the journal.

All identifying information of patients, such as names, dates of birth, dates of service, or patient identification codes must be removed.

If the image includes individually identifiable health information, authors must comply with the applicable privacy laws and obtain a HIPAA-compliant patient authorization form.
PRO invites Narrative Oncology commentaries that describe the unique challenges in the radiation oncology profession throughout the world. These commentaries are generally invited but we also welcome unsolicited articles of this type.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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**Guidelines for Reporting Preclinical Research**
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) held a workshop in June 2014 with the Nature Publishing Group and Science on the issue of reproducibility and rigor of research findings with journal editors representing over 30 basic/preclinical science journals in which NIH-funded investigators have most often published. The workshop focused on identifying the common opportunities in the scientific publishing arena to enhance rigor and further support research that is reproducible, robust, and transparent. The journal editors came to consensus on a set of principles to facilitate these goals. The PRO editorial board have chosen to uphold the high standards for preclinical research reporting established by the workshop, and we attach the summarized recommendations here. Please pay particular attention to these before submission.
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