PRACTICAL RADIATION ONCOLOGY
An official journal of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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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. Watch a presentation from Dr. Robert Lee, Editor of PRO

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.

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Manuscript ≤ 1500 words, figures ≤ 8 references ≤ 50
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Manuscript ≤ 400 words, references ≤ 10

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**Miscellaneous**

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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
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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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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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