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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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PRO accepts submissions and correspondence electronically, and the Elsevier Editorial System (http://ees.elsevier.com/practicalradonc) is a Web-based system that enables authors to track their submissions online.

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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

Original Reports are the primary mode of scientific communication in PRO. Authors are encouraged to review the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals" prior to submission. The Editor-in-Chief and a Senior Editor review all Original Reports. All submitted manuscripts are reviewed by external peer reviewers, and when required, a biostatistician. Comments offered by external reviewers are returned to the author(s) for consideration. Authors should focus on accuracy, brevity, and clarity in their presentation and avoid lengthy introductions, repetition of data from tables and figures in the text, and unfocused discussions. Authors should include extended patient demographic data in a table, not within the text.

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.
**Critical Review**

Manuscript ≤ 4500 words, figures ≤ 8, references ≤ 50  
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The Editor-in-Chief typically solicits Critical Reviews, but authors may submit an unsolicited review for consideration. The manuscript must present significant new information to justify publication. Critical Reviews will be reviewed in the same manner as Original Reports.

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Manuscript ≤ 1500 words, references ≤ 10  
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The Editor-in-Chief may solicit an Editorial to accompany an accepted manuscript. Authors may submit editorials that are unrelated to a specific article or related to important research published in another journal.

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Manuscript ≤ 400 words, references ≤ 10  
Required Elements: Title page Manuscript References Uniform disclosure forms

Authors may respond to a published article or express an opinion in a short, freestanding piece. If the Correspondence refers to a published article, the Editor-in-Chief may choose to invite a reply. Correspondence is reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief for possible inclusion in the journal. Letters and replies must be submitted electronically using EES.

**Miscellaneous**

**Special Articles**

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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**

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**Narrative Oncology**

Manuscript ≤ 1500 words, figures ≤ 8 references ≤ 50  
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**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**

**Ethics in Publishing**

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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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Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference; only relevant modifications should be described.
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Results should be clear and concise.

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