

Ultrasound Guided In-Room Imaging for Localization

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Acknowledgements

- Varian
- Resonant
- Nomos
- Martin Fuss MD

US Guidance Experience

- Started USG 2000 – Fall 2005 (UTHSCSA)
- 3 US Guidance Units (Nomos BAT)
- 9000+ patient alignments
- Evolved system to use in liver and pancreas
- Mistakes? We've made them all!

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Learning objectives

- Rationale for In-Room Guidance
- Rationale for US In-Room Guidance
- The USG Process
- Key components of the process
- QA considerations
- Dosimetric implications
- Outcome implications
- Other sites of application

Overview

- Rationale for in room Image Guidance
- Rationale for in room Ultrasound (US) Guidance
- The US Guidance Clinical Process
- Key components of the Process
- QA Considerations
- Dosimetric implications
- 'Outcome' implications
- Applications other than prostate

Why do we need in-room imaging?

Positional variation of the prostate gland within the pelvis

- Balter et al. IJROBP 1993 12 mm (95% CI)
- Roach et al. IJROBP 1994 7.5 to 22 mm (non-uniform)

CT simulation

Day x of RT

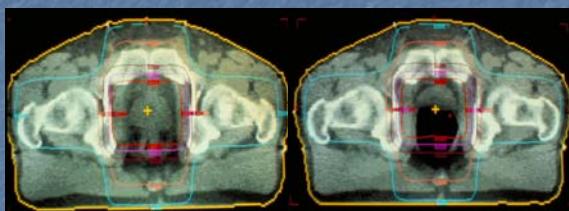
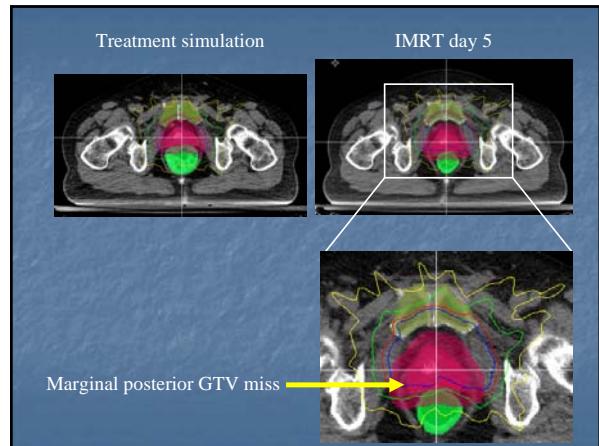
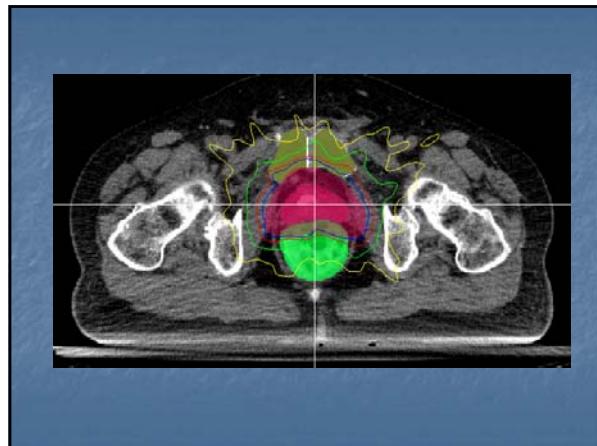


Image courtesy of Dr. David Hussey

Rationale for Image Guidance

- Setup to skin marks will not indicate target position, due to target movement relative to bony structures and skin
- Problem: tight safety margins and conformal dose distributions can lead to target miss



Causes of prostate positional variability

- Bladder filling
- Rectum filling
- Bladder and rectal contrast at RT planning
- Rectal catheter (plus inflated balloon)
- Overly full bladder
 - Tensioning/spasms of pelvic diaphragm

Potential dosimetric consequences of missing the target

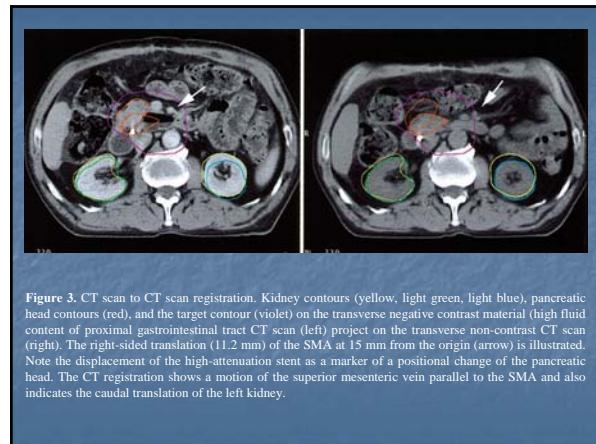
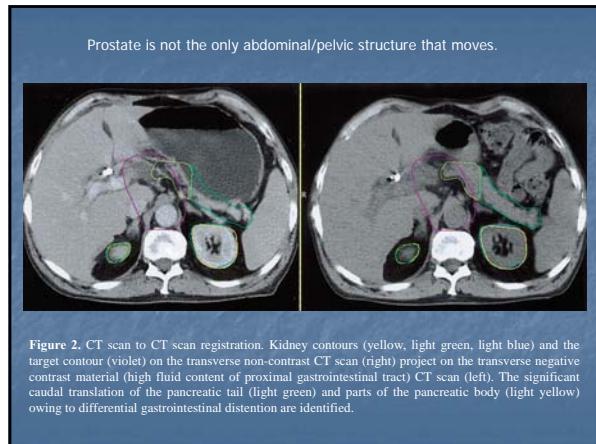
- Delivered dose differs from prescribed dose
- If target moves posteriorly, then the posterior aspect of prostate can experience dose reduction
 - Malignant cell density is often very high in the posterior and apical aspect of the prostate
- Increased rectal wall dose
- Increased bladder floor dose
- Due to unpredictable changes on a daily basis, true dosimetry becomes uncertain

Potential advantages of image-guided targeting for prostate cancer RT

- Dose escalation
 - Improved bRFS, local control and survival
- Normal tissue sparing
 - Reduced acute and chronic toxicity

Intrafractional Motion

- A recent cine-MRI study showed that for patients with a full rectum there exists a 10% chance that the prostate will move 3-mm or more during only a 3 minute time frame following the commencement of treatment (Ghilezan et al 2005)
- Typical conformal treatments employing IMRT take longer than this to deliver.



Characteristics of a successful in-room imaging approach for prostate

- Must be capable of directly ascertaining precise location of prostate
- Versus the use of unsuitable surrogates for position such as skin marks or bony anatomy
- Should require minimal amount of time
- The ability to at least visualize the intrafractional component of motion might be valuable, as well.

What are our options for acquiring targeting information for the prostate?

- Implanted fiducial markers
 - Daily planar image (portfilm, EPID, stereo pair, fluoro)
 - Interpretation of marker location (or automated fiducial location)
 - Objective and precise positional assessment of target (only)
 - Invasive procedure, radiation dose, marker migration, no intrafractional motion visualization (except for fluoro)
- In-room CT data (e.g. cone beam, in-room CT-on-rails, MV Tomo image)
 - Non invasive
 - 3D information (target and critical structures)
 - Radiation dose, image quality, intrafractional motion visualization?

What are our options for acquiring targeting information for the prostate?

- Implanted transponders
 - Real time assessment of target location (only)
 - Objective and precise real time positional assessment of target
 - Intrafractional motion assessment while treating
 - Invasive procedure
 - Beacon migration?
 - Expense?
- Ultrasound guided targeting
 - Non invasive
 - Real time assessment of target and critical structure location
 - Intrafractional motion visualization, depending on method
 - Inter-user variability in positional assessment, depending on method
 - Unfamiliar imaging modality

Ultrasound Guidance Characteristics

- Must be capable of directly ascertaining precise location of prostate, versus the use of unsuitable surrogates for position such as skin marks or bony anatomy
- Should require minimal amount of time
- The ability to at least visualize the intrafractional component of motion might be valuable, as well.

Ultrasound Guidance Rationale

- Must be capable of directly ascertaining precise location of target, versus the use of unsuitable surrogates for position such as skin marks or bony anatomy
- Lattanzi et al 1999, Chandra et al 2003, Chinnnaiyan et al 2003, Little et al 2003, Fuss et al 2004, Kuban et al 2005)
- Publications critical of reproducibility.

Ultrasound Guidance Rationale

- Should require minimal amount of time
- Lattanzi et al 1999, Chandra et al 2003, Fuss et al 2004)

Overview

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- Key components of the Process
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- Dosimetric implications
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- Applications other than prostate

In Room US Image Guidance Process

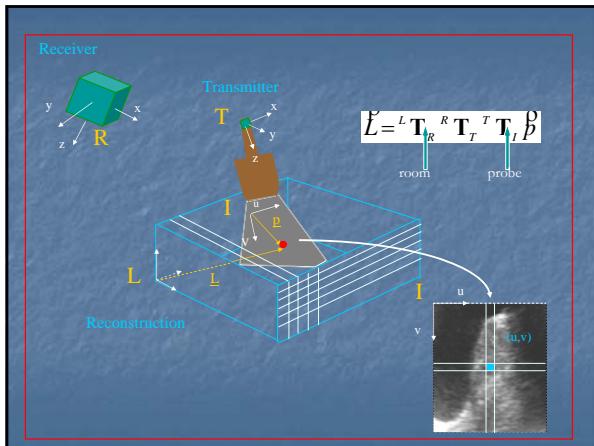
- We need to verify that the target and critical structures are in the same position(s) as they were for simulation.
- In-room verification of this allows us to verify correct position immediately prior to treatment.

In Room US Image Guidance Process

- The baseline for comparison is, obviously, the imaging data acquired in simulation (typically by CT).
- For the in-room acquired images to be useful for comparison with the CT simulation data, the in-room images must be mappable to a common reference frame.

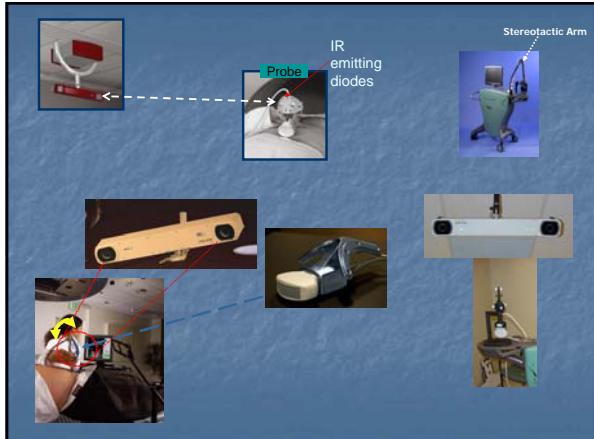
In Room US Image Guidance Process

- If the position and orientation of the US probe is known, in room coordinates, then the pixels within the US image can be assigned room coordinates, thus giving the structures visualized in the US image known locations in room coordinates.

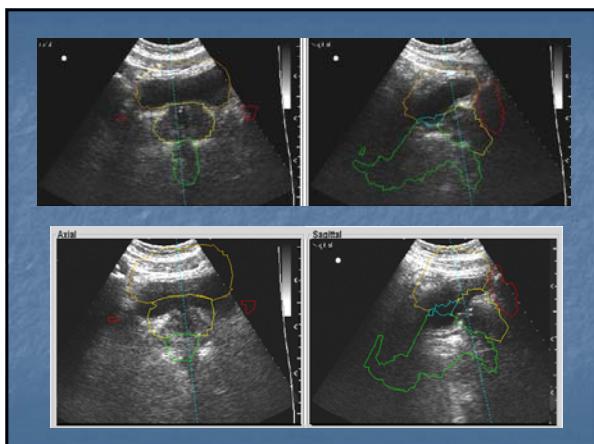


In Room US Image Guidance Process

- The system's understanding of the position and orientation of the US probe is typically achieved by some form of in-room tracking of the US probe.

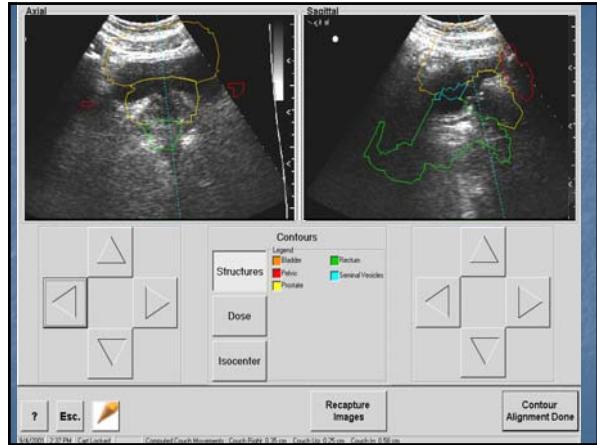


- By mapping the in-room-acquired US images to the same spatial reference frame as the simulation data set...
- We enable the direct comparison of the two data sets.
- This can be done, for instance, by overlaying the CT-Sim-derived contours of the target and critical structures onto the US image.

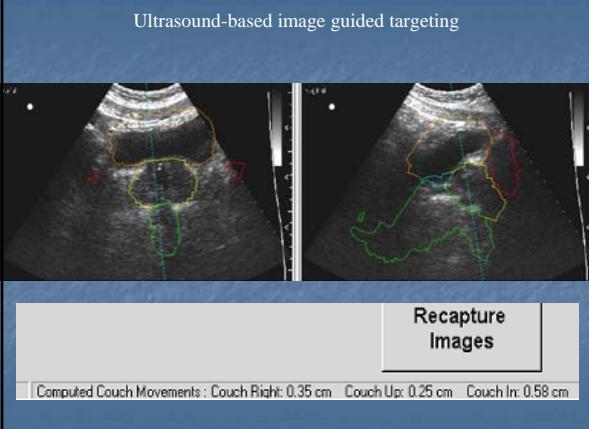


- The simulation derived contours are overlaid in room coordinates onto the US image *where they were at time of simulation*.
- This is where the system "expects" these structures to be in room coordinates, if you will.
- If the underlying US structure does not agree, this simply means that the structure has moved (relative to isocenter) since simulation.
- This information is useful, but what we really want is to know the 3D components of this misalignment and correct for it.
- How can we do this?

- In general, we can either assist the system in understanding how to correctly align the simulation contours with the in-room-acquired US image...



Ultrasound-based image guided targeting



- In general, we can either assist the system in understanding how to correctly align the simulation contours with the in-room-acquired US image...
- OR, we can have the system "automatically" find the relevant structures in the US image, and then compare their location with the "expected" location from simulation, and then compute the difference and required patient shifts.

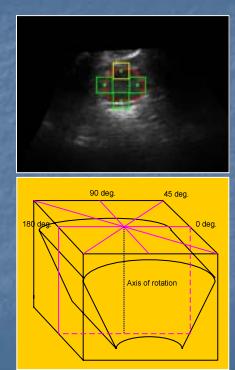
Segmentation



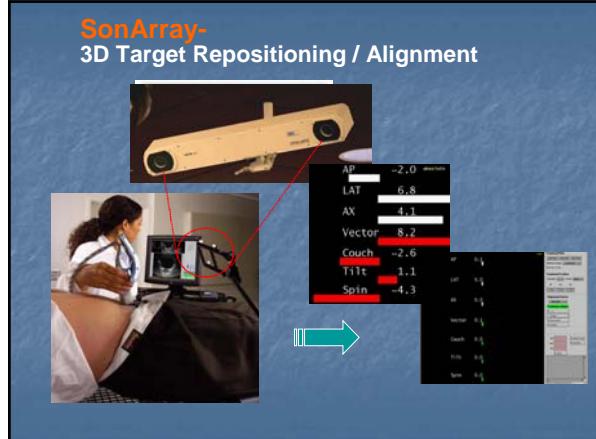
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}_i^{tot} &= w_i^{ext} \mathbf{f}_i^{ext} + w_i^{int} \mathbf{f}_i^{int} + \mathbf{f}_i^d \\ \mathbf{f}_i^{ext}(x, y) &= -\frac{\nabla E(x, y)}{\max \|\nabla E(x, y)\|} \\ E(x, y) &= \|\nabla(G_x I(x, y))\| \\ \mathbf{f}_i^{int} &= (\mathbf{c}_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_i - \langle \mathbf{c}_i \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_i \rangle) \hat{\mathbf{r}}_i \\ \mathbf{f}_i^d &= w_i^d \mathbf{v}_i \end{aligned}$$

- External force pushes active contour towards gradients
- Internal force maintains constant curvature
- Damping force for stability
- Weights found empirically
- Contour evolves under forces until vertices come to rest

Segmentation



- However we determine the magnitude of displacements of the target, either by helping the system or by having it determine the shifts for us...
- We need to then implement the shifts.
- In other words, we now know that the target and critical structures are out of place relative to simulation...
- And we now need to move the patient to return the target and critical structures to the same location (relative to isocenter) as they were for treatment planning simulation.
- How do we implement the shifts?



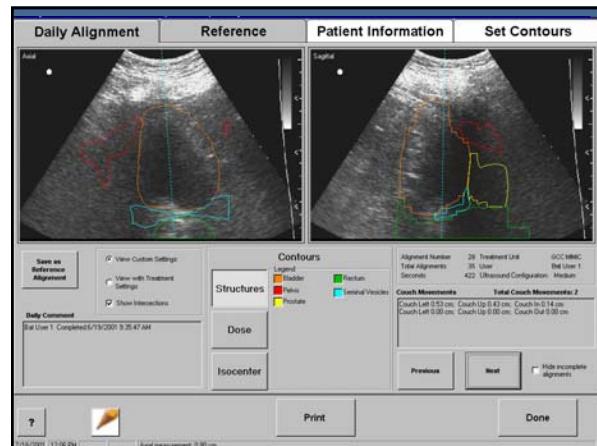
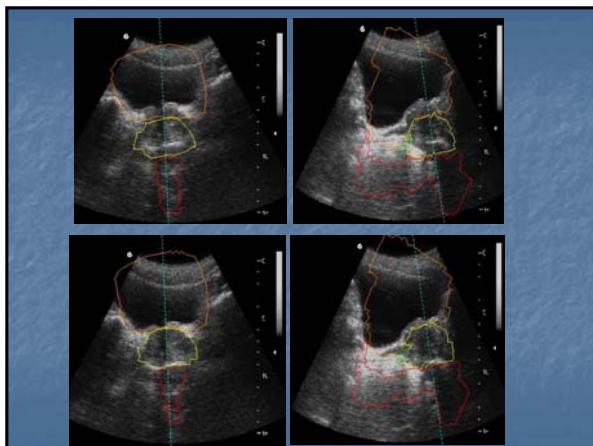
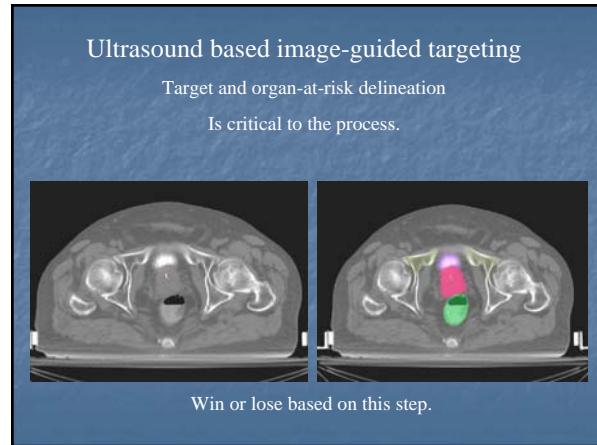
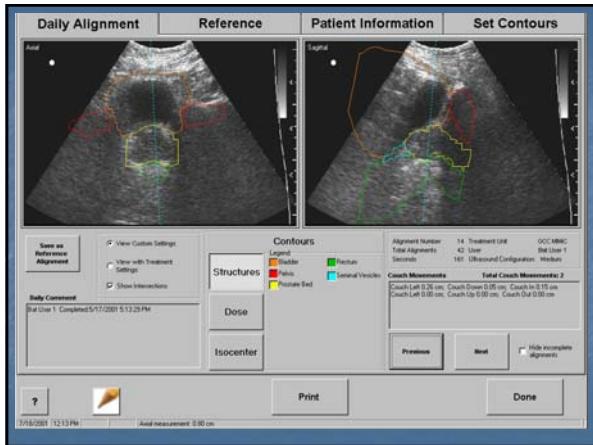
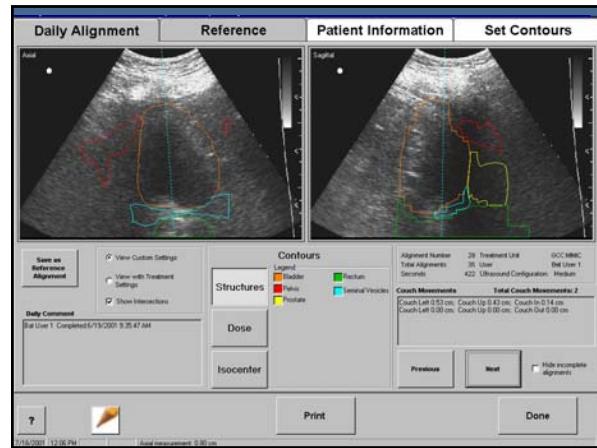
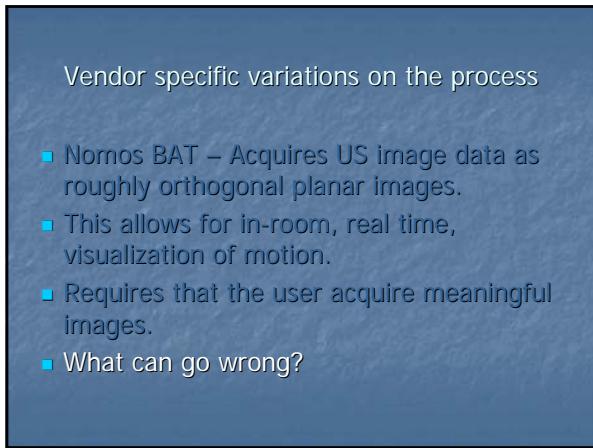
Vendor specific variations on the process

- Nomos BAT – Acquires US image data as 2 roughly orthogonal planar images.
- This allows for in-room, real time, visualization of motion.



Vendor specific variations on the process

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- This allows for in-room, real time, visualization of motion.
- Requires that the user acquire meaningful planar images.

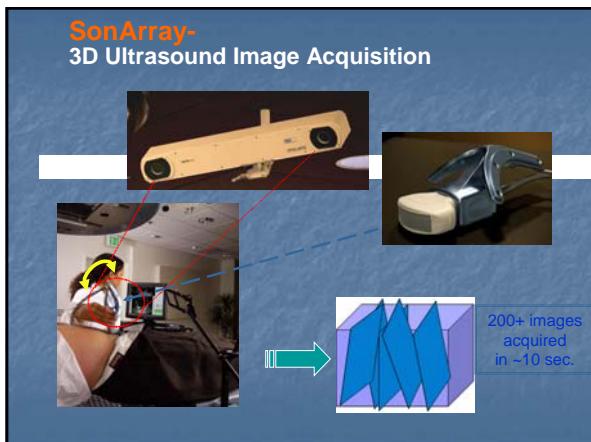


Vendor specific variations on the process

- Nomos BAT – Acquires US image data as roughly orthogonal planar images.
 - This allows for in-room, real time, visualization of 3D aspects of target and critical structures
 - Along with visualization of "intrafraction" motion.
 - Requires that the user acquire meaningful images.

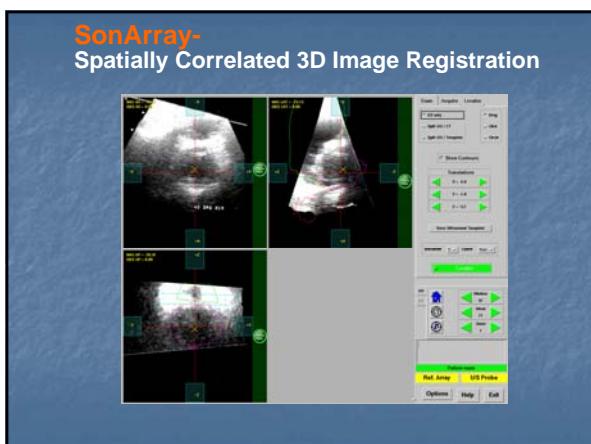
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- Varian SonArray and Resonant Restitu – Acquire US image data as 3D array by sweeping the US transducer through the region of interest.



Vendor specific variations on the process

- Varian SonArray and Resonant Restitu – Acquires US image data as 3D array by sweeping the US transducer through the region of interest.
 - This allows for building of a 3D array of US images that can be viewed (i.e. sliced and diced) in many different ways to facilitate determining how the in-room data set and the simulation data set may agree or disagree.



Vendor specific variations on the process

- Varian SonArray and Resonant Restitu – Acquires US image data as 3D array by sweeping the US transducer through the region of interest.
 - This allows for building of a 3D array of US images that can be viewed in many different ways to facilitate determining how the in-room data set and the simulation data set disagree.
 - Does not necessarily afford the same opportunity to view treatment planning margins over moving US anatomy and must acquire sufficiently dense set of 3D planes.

Vendor specific variations on the process

- Varian SonArray and Nomos BAT – Compare the CT-derived contours to the US image
- Resonant Restitu acquires US images in the CT simulation suite, thus allowing for comparison of US reference images with the US in-room images.
- So concerns about how CT volumes of the prostate may differ from US volumes of the prostate can potentially be avoided.

Vendor specific variations on the process

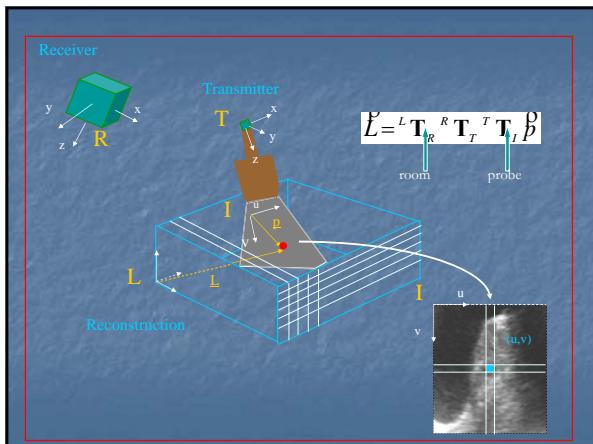
- The auto segmentation of the US image structure set by Resonant's Restitu system should be evaluated for accuracy.

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Key Components of the Process

- The ability to map the in-room US image data into a common coordinate system with the simulation images is all-important.
- This is accomplished, as discussed previously, by tracking the position and orientation of the US probe in the room.
- Small errors in the system's perspective on the probe position and orientation can manifest themselves as large errors in the coordinates assigned to structures in the US image.



Key Components of the Process

- The ability to map the in-room US image data into a common coordinate system with the simulation images is all-important.
- This is accomplished, as discussed previously, by tracking the position and orientation of the US probe in the room.
- Small errors in the system's understanding of probe position and orientation can manifest themselves as large errors in the coordinates assigned to structures in the US image.
- Whether probe position and orientation are determined from tracking the position of a stereotactic arm or through IR camera systems, these systems must be well maintained and calibrated.

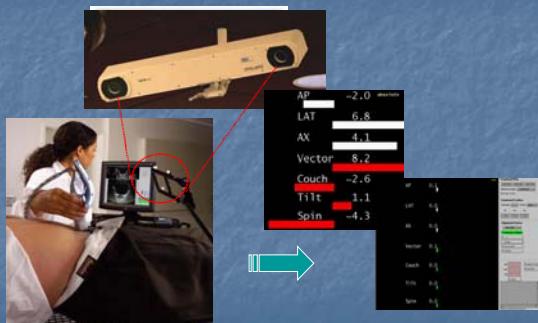
Key Components of the Process

- US Image Quality
- The inherent quality of the US image determines what structures are visible.
- Whether we assist the system in knowing how to align the simulation contours of target and critical structures (Varian and Nomos), or have the system do it for us (Resonant)...
- The quality of the images will effect the accuracy of the process.
- TG 1 (Report 65) describes methods for quantifying and maintaining US image quality.
- Additionally, the spatial integrity of the US image itself is very important to the accuracy of the process.

Key Components of the Process

- Table/Patient positioning feedback loop
- As mentioned previously, once we've determined the shifts necessary to return the target and critical structures to their same position, relative to isocenter, as was observed for simulation...
- We need to implement these shifts.
- These are performed by a feedback loop with the couch, as shown earlier...

SonArray- 3D Target Repositioning / Alignment



Key Components of the Process

- Table/Patient positioning feedback loop
- As mentioned previously, once we've determined the shifts necessary to return the target and critical structures to their same position, relative to isocenter, as was observed for simulation...
- We need to implement these shifts.
- These are performed by a feedback loop with the couch, as shown earlier...
- This system (camera and detachable couch mounted IR array OR stereotactic arm to detachable couch mount probe cradle) must be properly maintained and QA'd.

Key Components of the Process

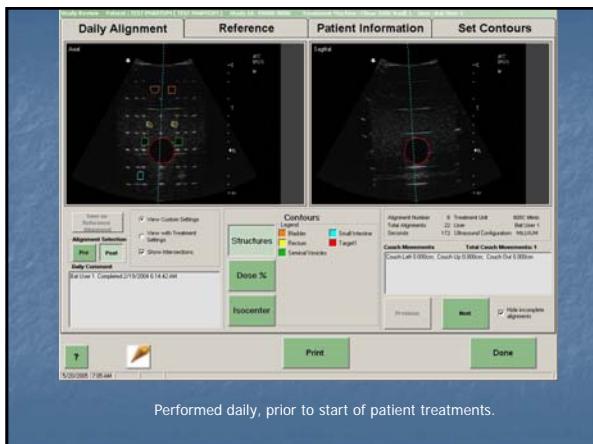
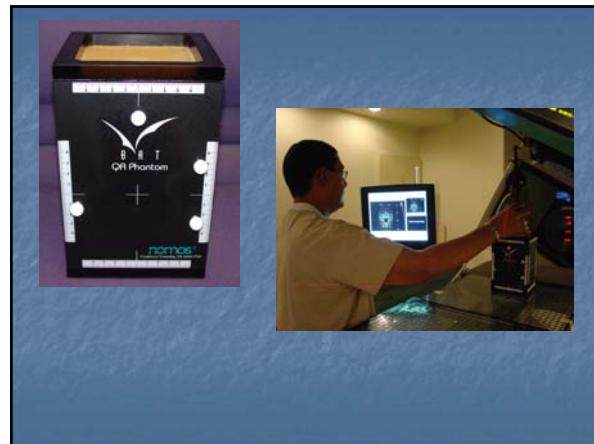
- Individual User
- Regardless of the vendor system/process used, the user must operate the system.
- At the very least the user must acquire a valid data set for the region of interest.
- For the methods which use a 3D sweep of the US probe, the user must acquire a reasonably dense and well oriented data set.
- For the Restitu system the user must evaluate the quality of the automated image segmentation.
- For the Nomos approach, the user must acquire two planes which contain all the necessary 3D data, as mentioned earlier.
- If the method used requires the user to align the simulation contours with the US image from that day, the user must do this correctly.

Implementation and QA Considerations

- Utilize the vendor's expertise at installation and commissioning.
- At installation and acceptance completion the system should be:
 - Generating high quality US images
 - Of high spatial integrity with regard to the in-room coordinate system.

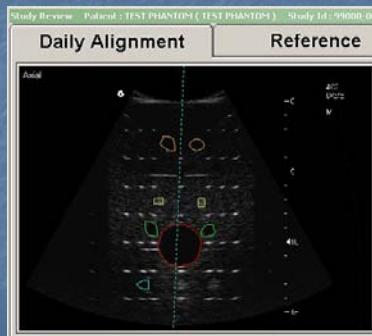
Spatial Integrity

- End-to-End Test



Performed daily, prior to start of patient treatments.

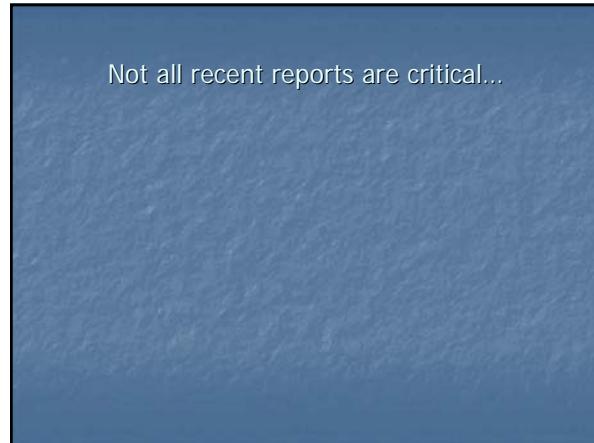
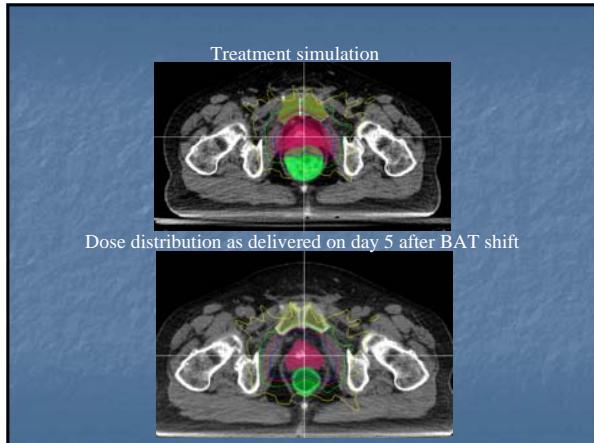
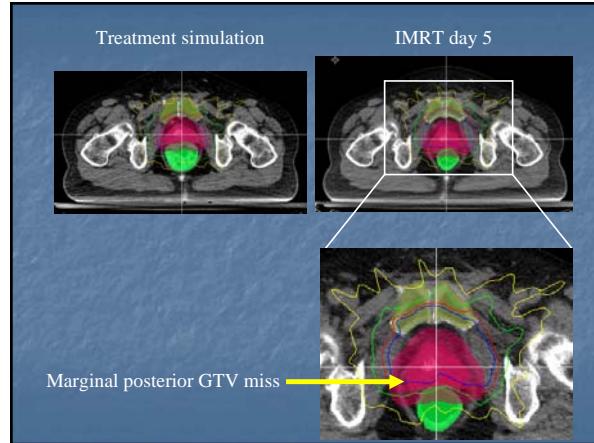
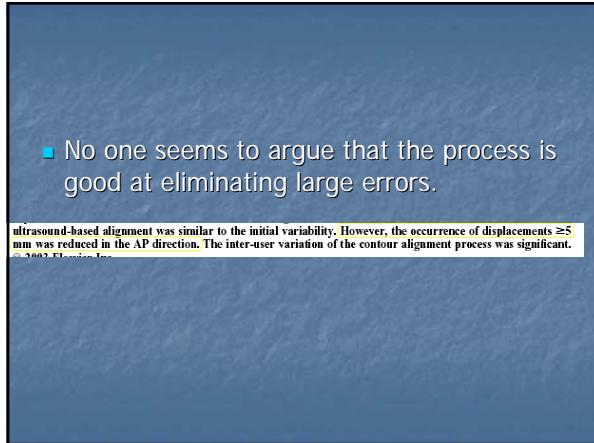
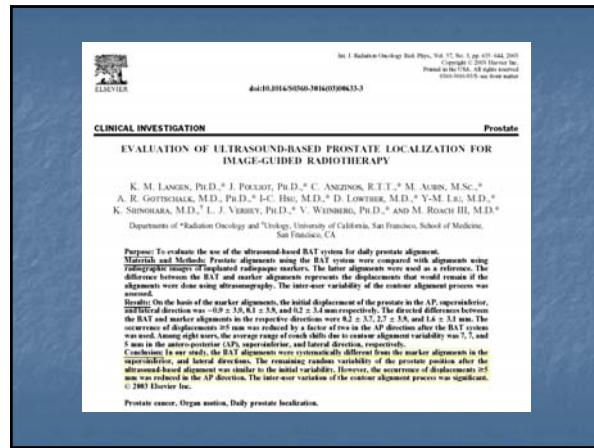
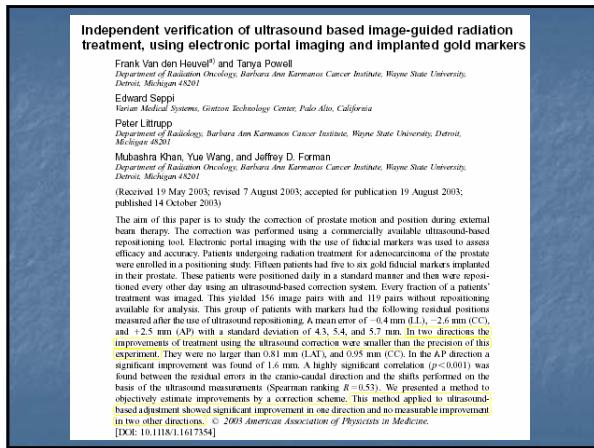
Image quality baseline



User interaction with system

Inter-user variability

Recently critically and controversially discussed



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Clinical Oncology

3D-Ultrasound Guided Radiation Therapy in the Post-Prostatectomy Setting

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Randy P. Park, M.D.
Rick Chappell, Ph.D.
Mark Ritter, M.D., Ph.D.*

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Daily transabdominal ultrasound localization has proven valuable in correcting for set-up and internal motion displacements. The bladder neck, which serves as an adequate localization reference structure postprostatectomy ($p > 0.1$). In conclusion, daily transabdominal 3D-ultrasound localization proved to be a clinically feasible method of correcting for set-up and internal motion displacements. The bladder neck, which serves as an adequate localization reference structure

Timing: By comparing the time taken after ultrasound localization which evaluates for both set-up error and internal shift, with the original digitally reconstructed radiographs (DRRs), we determined the average time taken for each user to evaluate the prostate and rectum for the post-prostatectomy setting. The average analysis, ultrasound and rectal times for the post-prostatectomy setting were 1.4 min, 1.4 min and 1.4 min, respectively. The average total time for treatment planning was 1.4 min, 1.4 min and 1.4 min for the radiation oncologist, physicist and radiologist, respectively. The average rectal length was 8.4 mm SD. For the radiation oncologist, the average rectal length was 8.4 mm SD, 8.3 mm SD and 8.3 mm SD for anterior, posterior and lateral directions, respectively. For the physicist, the average rectal length was 8.4 mm SD, 8.3 mm SD and 8.3 mm SD for anterior, posterior and lateral directions, respectively. For the radiologist, the average rectal length was 8.4 mm SD, 8.3 mm SD and 8.3 mm SD for anterior, posterior and lateral directions, respectively. Ultrasound lengths representing internal rectal motion were evaluated by comparing post-ultrasound post times with DRGs. These were 0.3 min SD and 0.4 min SD for peak prostatic motion and 0.3 min SD and 0.4 min SD for rectal motion, respectively. The magnitude of internal rectal motion marks were no statistically different in patients who are at risk prostate cancer versus prostatitis patients. Daily ultrasound guided treatment setup for patients treated with stereotactic ultrasound guided radiation therapy was a clinically feasible method of correcting for set-up and internal motion displacements. Daily ultrasound guided treatment setup for patients treated with stereotactic ultrasound guided radiation therapy was a clinically feasible method of correcting for set-up and internal motion displacements. The bladder neck, which serves as an adequate localization reference structure postprostatectomy could be readily utilized to target and treat and as necessary. Daily internal motion marks that would have occurred during treatment can still be used with ultrasound guided treatment setup. We believe that ultrasound guided treatment setup is a feasible and safe way of reducing margins to support the use of daily prostate ultrasound localization.

**Daily Stereotactic Ultrasound Prostate Targeting:
Inter-user Variability**
www.acr.org

We analyzed the inter-user variability of patient setup for prostate radiotherapy using a stereotactic ultrasound-targeting device. Setup variations in 20 prostate cancer patients were analyzed. Users were a radiation oncologist, a medical physicist, four radiation technicians (RTT) and a radiologist. The radiation oncologist, radiologist, physical and two RTTs were experienced users of the system (>18 months of experience), two RTTs were users new to the system. Gold standard for this analysis was a control CT acquired immediately following ultrasound targeting. For inter-user variability assessments, the radiation oncologist provided a set of axial and sagittal freeze-frames (standard freeze-frames) for virtual targeting by all users. Additionally, each user acquired individual freeze-frames for target alignments. We analyzed the range of virtual setups in each patient along the principal room axes based on standard and individual freeze-frames. The magnitude of residual setup error and percentage of setup change for each user was assessed by control CT/planning CT comparison with individual virtual shifts. A total of 184 alignments were analyzed. The range of virtual shifts between users was 2.7±1.4, 3.6±1.1, and 4.4±1.4 mm (mean±SD) in x, y and z-direction for setups based on standard freeze-frames and 3.9±2.1, 6.0±4.7, and 5.4±2.7 mm for setups based on individual freeze-frames. When only virtual shifts of experienced users were analyzed, the mean ranges were reduced by up to 2.4 mm. Average range of individual virtual shifts was 3.2±2.1, 3.6±2.1, and 4.4±1.4 mm. Average improvement of prostate setup was 83.1±23.4% in experienced and 35.4±37.7% in inexperienced users, respectively ($p<0.0001$). Only 5 of 184 (2.7%) virtual alignments would have introduced new larger setup errors (mean 3.2 mm, range 0.2 to 9.5 mm) than the magnitude of the initial setup error. We conclude that ultrasound guided treatment setup for patients treated for prostate cancer can be performed with high inter-user consistency and does lead to improved treatment setup in more than 97% of attempted setups. Experienced users is correlated with a reduced range of setups between users and higher degree of setup improvement when compared with users new to the system.

Study design

Systematic QA study after 18 months of BAT use

Participants:

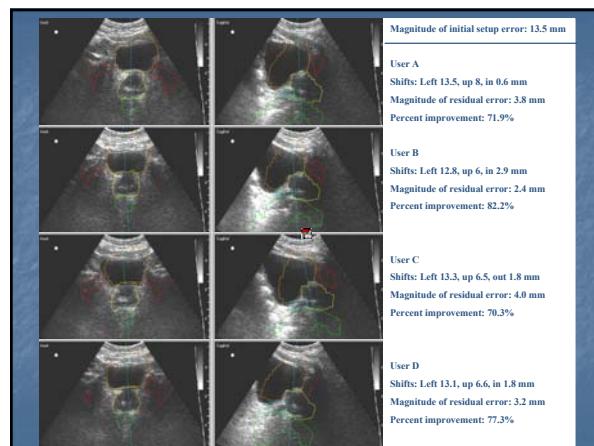
- 20 patients
- Radiation oncologist (1)
- Physicist (1)
- RT/T (4)
- Radiologist (1) (user gold standard)

Study design

- BAT setup for use in the CT suite
- BAT calibrated to imaging plane of the CT
- Lasers aligned to skin marks
- BAT used to measure prostate misalignment
- Each user's indicated shifts recorded
- Patient CT immediately after BAT

Objective assessment initial prostate displacement

mean 14.3 mm



We concluded...

- Average magnitude displacement of prostate prior to US alignment was 14.3 mm
- Average improvement of prostate setup was 63.1% for experienced users and 35.1% for inexperienced users
- Or, average “residual error” of 3mm in any given direction
- Only 5 of 184 alignments introduced new larger setup errors (mean=3.2 mm)
- US alignment can be performed with high interuser consistency, and led to improved treatment setup in more than 97% of attempted setups.
- Experienced use is correlated with a higher degree of setup improvement

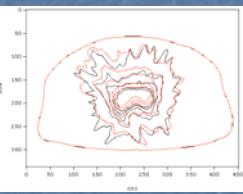
Perhaps more importantly, does improved spatial alignment translate into significant dosimetric improvement?

Study Design

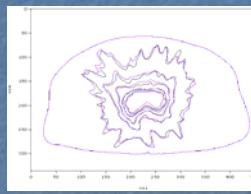
- 20 patients under BAT USG treatment
- Recorded daily x, y, z treatment shifts
- Recalculated the isodose distribution for each daily fraction to determine what would have happened without BAT alignment
- Summed each recalculated fraction to create a composite isodose distribution for each patient, representative of the dose distribution that would have been delivered without BAT.

For BAT alignment

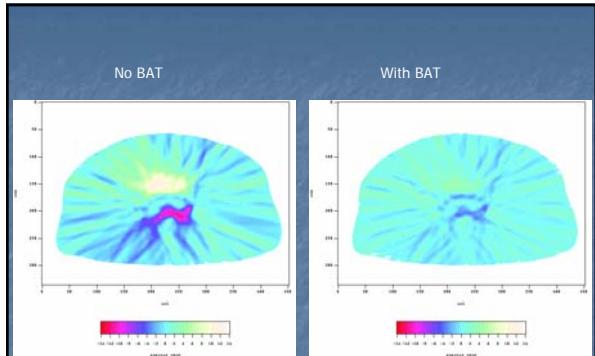
- Did not assume that BAT USG perfectly aligns the prostate
(We just saw that it does not i.e. interuser variability)
- Performed a Monte Carlo simulation to randomly select x, y, z residual errors. Used data collected from Interuser variability study just described
- Recalculated the daily isodose distributions as for the No BAT scenario
- Summed the individual daily distributions to create a realistic composite distribution indicative of dose distribution achieved when BAT USG is used



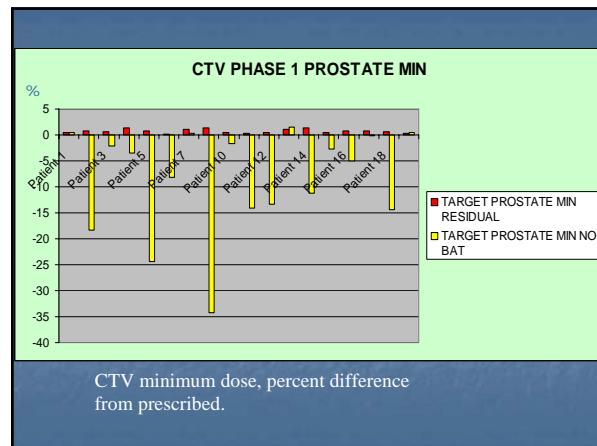
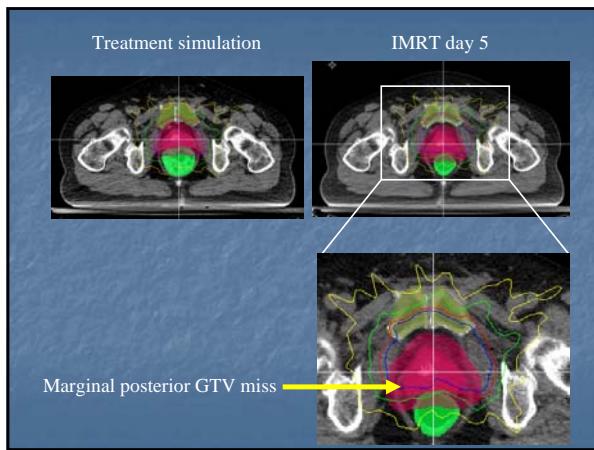
No US Alignment



With BAT US Alignment



What might cause such a systematic error?

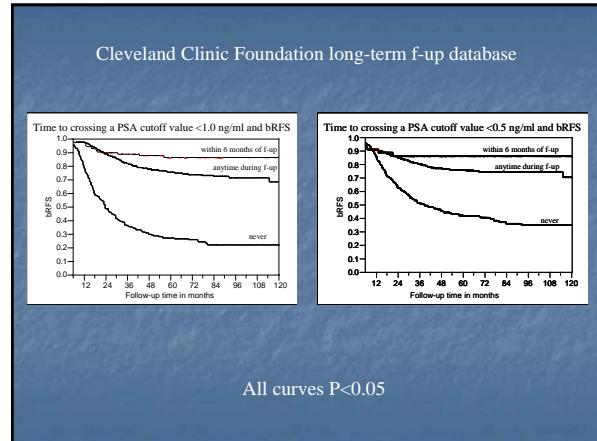
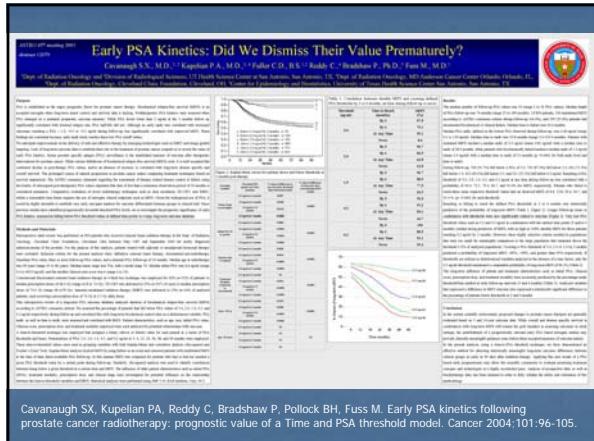


In summary...

- In addition to improved spatial alignment of prostate target
 - USG leads to significant improvement in delivered dose
 - For conformal plans delivered without USG the minimum dose to the prostate CTV can be more than 30% lower than prescribed

Does improved dosimetry lead to improved outcome?

- Improved prostate outcomes will take a long time to observe
 - Are there possible early predictors?
 - Funny you should ask ☺



Early PSA Kinetics: Did We Dismiss Their Value Prematurely? *Conclusions*

- Reaching or failing to reach the defined PSA thresholds (1.0, 0.5, 0.2) at 3 or 6 months was statistically predictive of the probability of long-term bRFS
 - Patients reaching these low value nadirs of PSA within the first 3 to 6 months following treatment were shown to be significantly more likely to enjoy biochemical recurrent free survival

So, does USG increase the probability of reaching early PSA nadir of 1.0 or less?

PSA kinetics following IMRT for prostate cancer: The impact of daily stereotactic ultrasound-based image-guided targeting

Martin Forni, M.D.,¹ Andrew J. Carvalho, M.D.,¹ Lindsey Voeckle, Patrick Whitham, P.D.,¹ Bill J. Sable, Ph.D.,¹ Brook H. Pollack, Ph.D.,² Thomas S. Hwang, M.D.,¹ William H. Chang, M.D.,¹ and Michael S. Kupelian, M.D.¹ *¹Urology and Radiation Oncology, New York University, New York, NY; ²Center for Prostate Disease Research, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY*

Abstract

Introduction: The potential of intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) to reduce toxicity while maintaining high local control rates has been well documented. However, the use of IMRT without daily image guidance has been associated with increased rates of late side effects, such as rectal bleeding and incontinence, compared to those receiving IMRT with daily image guidance.

Methods: We conducted a prospective study of 100 consecutive patients with clinically localized prostate cancer who received IMRT with or without daily stereotactic ultrasound-based image-guided targeting (USG). All patients received a standard 70 Gy IMRT plan. Patients were assigned to receive USG either as part of their routine, and those assigned to receive USG had to have at least one daily USG scan during their course of therapy. The primary outcome was the rate of early PSA nadir achievement. Secondary outcomes included the rate of late side effects, including rectal bleeding and incontinence.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 62 years (range, 45–80 years). The median Gleason score was 6 (range, 5–9). The median clinical stage was T1c (range, T1c–T2c). The median time to achieve an early PSA nadir was 10 months (range, 4–18 months). The rate of early PSA nadir achievement was significantly higher in the USG group (75%) compared to the no-USG group (55%) ($P = 0.001$). The rate of late side effects, including rectal bleeding and incontinence, was significantly lower in the USG group (10%) compared to the no-USG group (25%) ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Daily stereotactic ultrasound-based image-guided targeting is associated with improved early PSA nadir achievement and reduced rates of late side effects in patients treated with IMRT for prostate cancer.

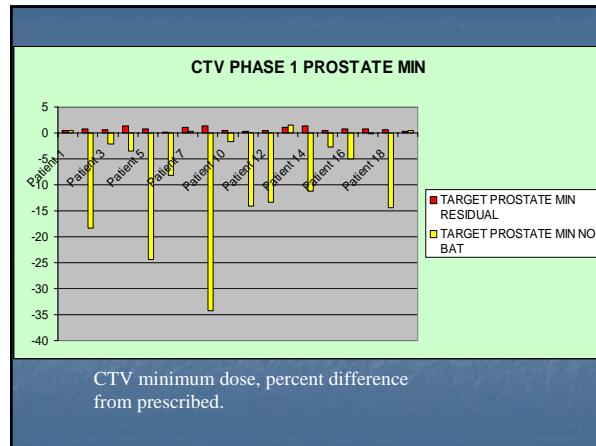
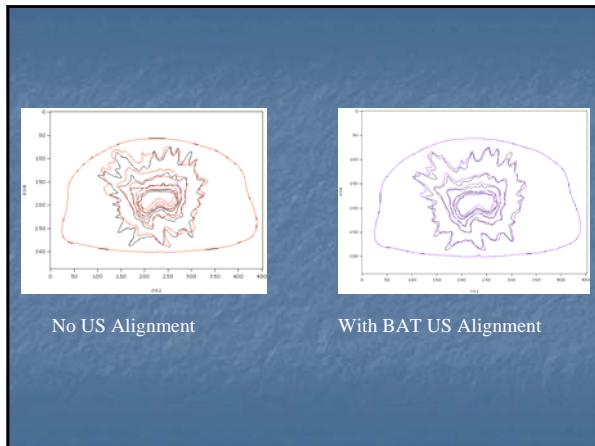
Conclusion: Between patients treated by IMRT without USG and those treated by IMRT with USG, those treated with USG reached early PSA nadirs significantly more often

Which seems to suggest...

- That USG for prostate treatment may lead to better long term survival.

- And so we saw in our clinic, at least, that...
 - If we trained our staff to use the USG system, we could achieve consistent and significant improvements in setup quality
 - With mean “residual” errors (when compared to CT) of ~3mm in any given direction.

- We also saw that when we recomputed the composite dose distributions for our patients and included the residual error in target position characteristic of what our staff typically "left behind"
 - The dose distributions were much better

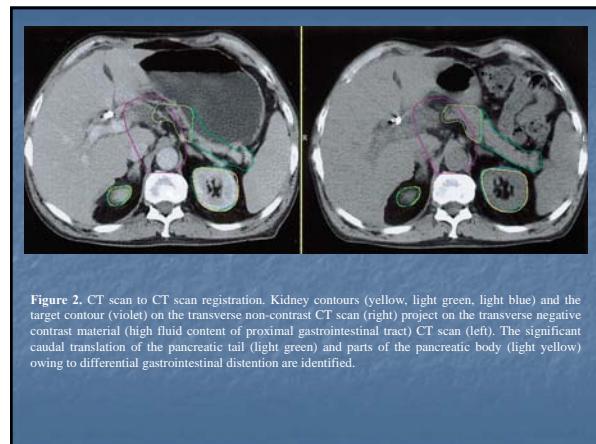


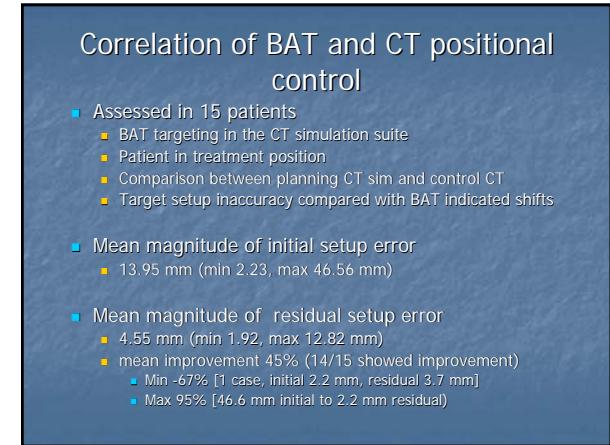
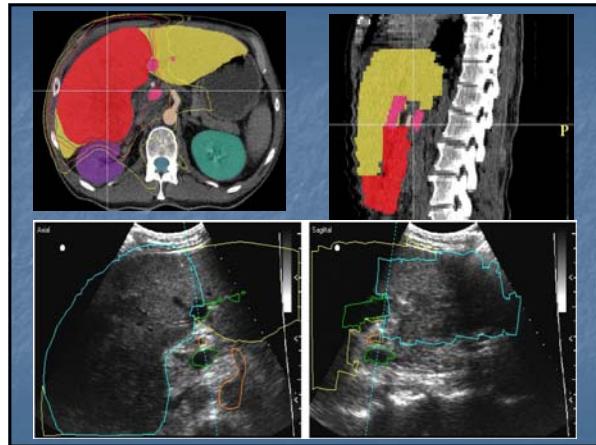
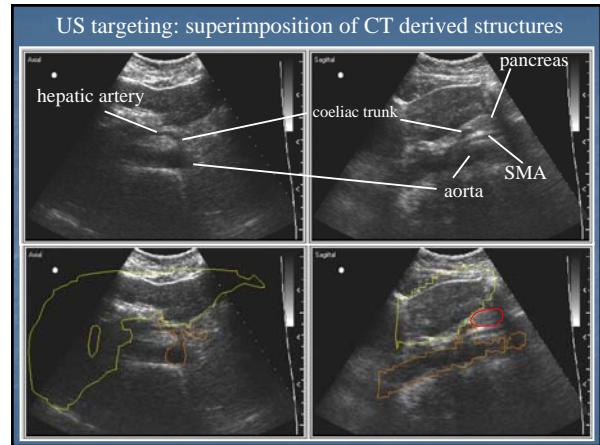
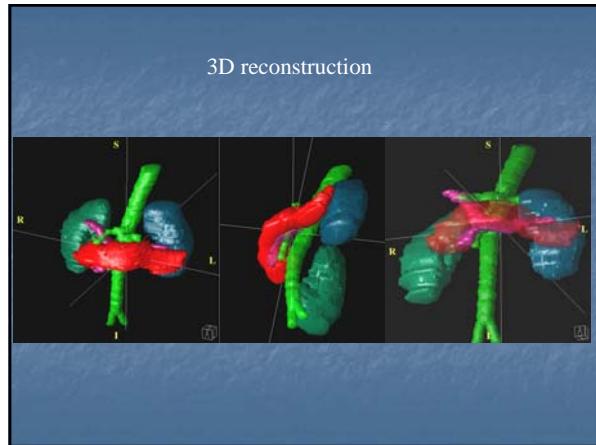
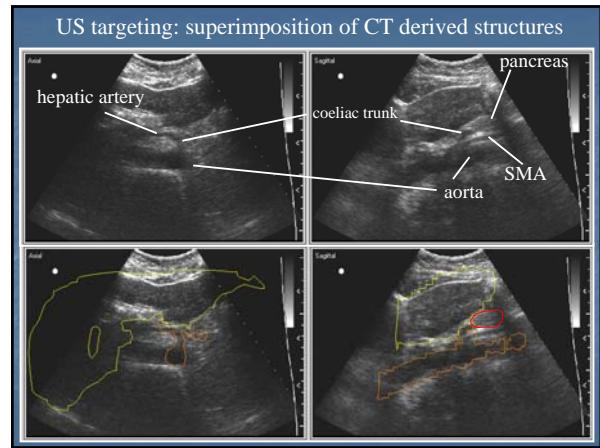
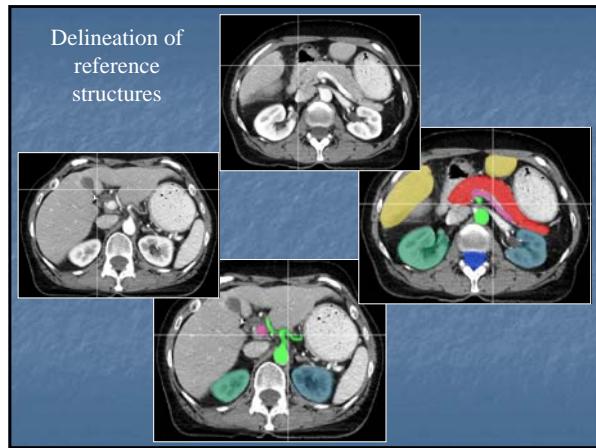
- And with regard to the most important question
- Namely, were we doing our patients any good?
- We saw that by using US IGRT for our prostate treatments
- We were increasing the likelihood that our patients would reach PSA nadir more quickly
- Which, if you buy our analysis of the Cleveland Clinic long term follow up data, suggests that we may also have been improving their odds of (at least) long term bRFS.

In short,

- We concluded that USG for prostate patients in our clinic was a "good thing".

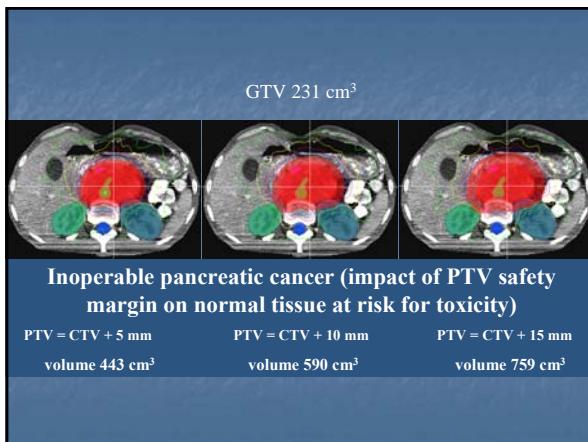
Other sites for application of USG





Does it matter?

Lets have a look at a clinical IMRT treatment plan



Daily ultrasound-based image-guided targeting for radiotherapy of upper abdominal malignancies.

Martin Fuss, M.D.,¹ Bill J. Salter, Ph.D.,^{1,2}
Sean X. Cavanaugh, M.D.,^{1,3} Cristina Fuss, M.D.,³ Amir Sadeghi, Ph.D.,³
Clifton D. Fuller,⁴ Ardow Ameduri, M.D.,⁵ James M. Hevezi, Ph.D.,⁶
Terence S. Herman, M.D.,¹ Charles R. Thomas Jr., M.D.,¹
Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2004 Jul 15;59(4):1245-56.

External beam radiation therapy for hepatocellular carcinoma: potential of intensity modulated and image guided radiation therapy.

Martin Fuss, M.D.,¹ Bill J. Salter, Ph.D.,^{1,2}
Terence S. Herman, M.D.,¹ Charles R. Thomas Jr., M.D.,¹
Gastroenterology. 2004 Nov; 127(5 Suppl 1):S206-17. Review.

- So, In-Room USG can be applied to important targets other than prostate
- With significant improvement in daily setup accuracy
- Leading to significant reduction of the amount of healthy tissue treated
- With a subsequent (assumed) reduction of NT complication OR
- The ability to dose escalate.

Learning objectives

- Rationale for In-Room Guidance
- Rationale for US In-Room Guidance
- The USG Process
- Key components of the process
- QA considerations
- Dosimetric implications
- Outcome implications
- Other sites of application

In conclusion

- In room image guidance is needed because the prostate and/or abdominal structures such as pancreas move.
- US in-room guidance can provide a non-invasive, real-time assessment of both target and critical structure alignment immediately prior to treatment.
- The method does not require deposition of ionizing radiation dose and is capable of depicting the intra fraction component of target and critical structure motion for prostate and also for other important sites such as pancreas and liver.

In summary

- The clinical process employs various key components, which must be appropriately commissioned and QA'd
- Not the least of which is the individual users of the system.
- Through appropriate attention to the underlying details of the process, an in-room US Guided approach can be extremely effective in reducing the dosimetric errors associated with target and critical structure interfractional motion for important sites such as prostate, pancreas and liver.
- The methods and resources necessary to implement such an approach are modest, and achievable by "typical" community based centers.



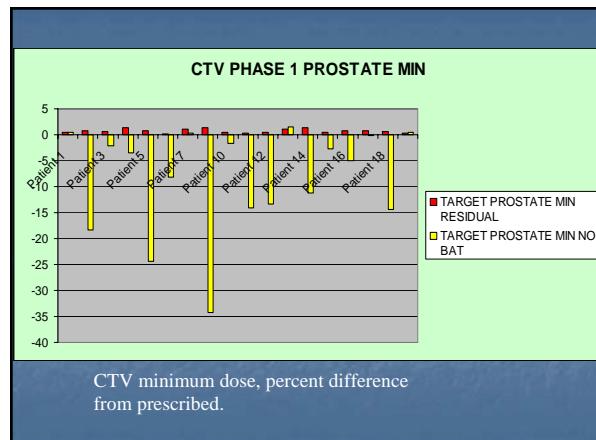
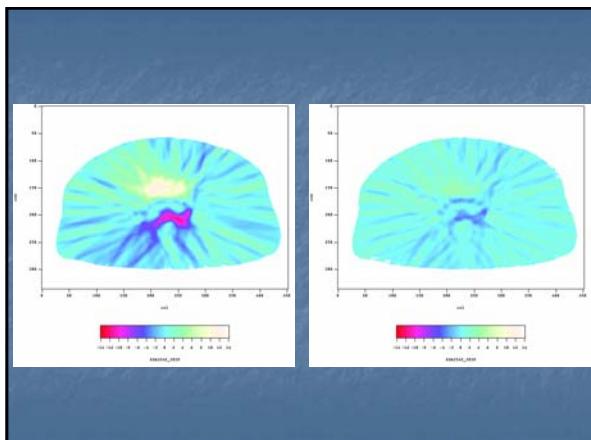
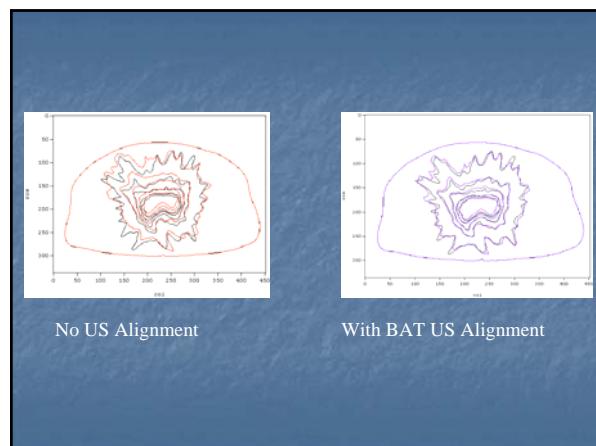
Does improved spatial alignment translate into significant dosimetric improvement?

Study Design

- 20 patients under BAT USG treatment
- Recorded daily x, y, z treatment shifts
- Recalculated the isodose distribution for each daily fraction to determine what would have happened without BAT alignment
- Summed each recalculated fraction to create a composite isodose distribution for each patient, representative of the dose distribution that would have been delivered with out BAT.

For BAT alignment

- Did not assume that BAT USG perfectly aligns the prostate
(We just saw that it does not i.e. interuser variability)
- Performed a Monte Carlo simulation to randomly select x, y, z residual errors. Used data collected from Interuser variability study (TCRT)
- Recalculated the daily isodose distributions as for the No BAT scenario
- Summed the individual daily distributions to create a realistic composite distribution indicative of dose distribution achieved when BAT USG is used

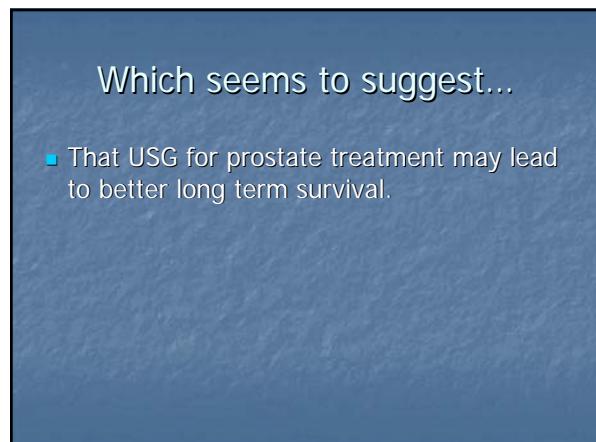
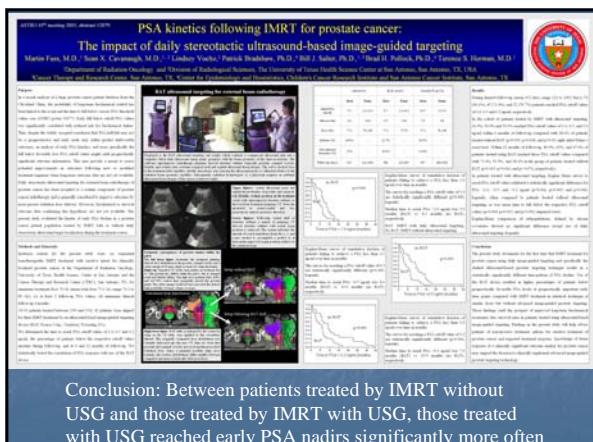
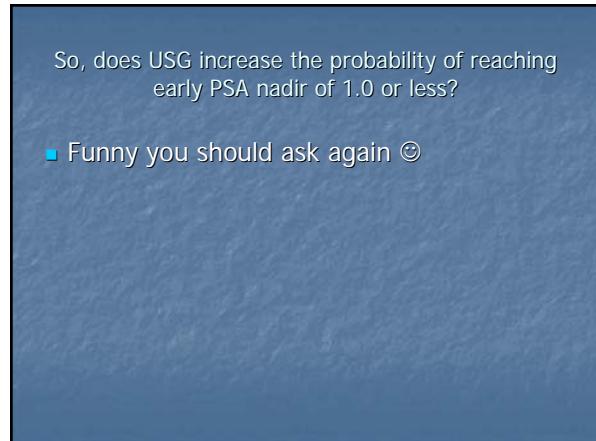
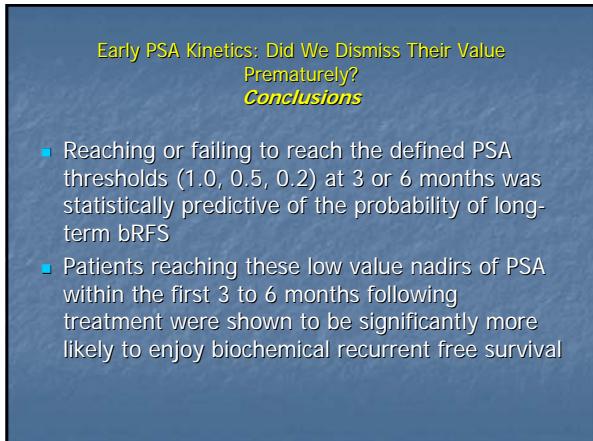
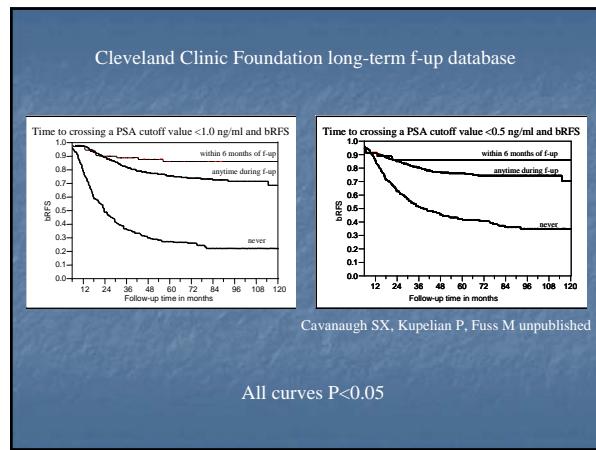
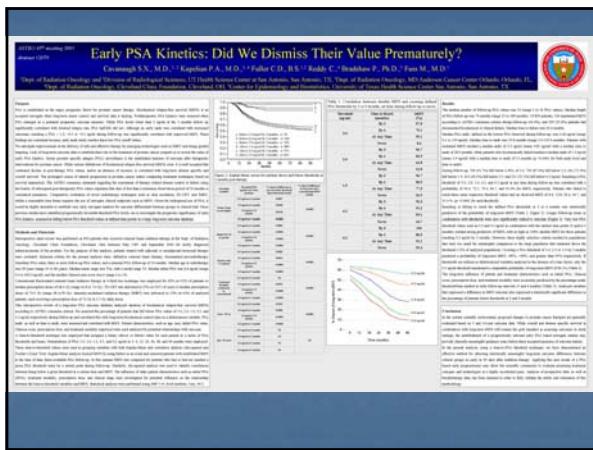


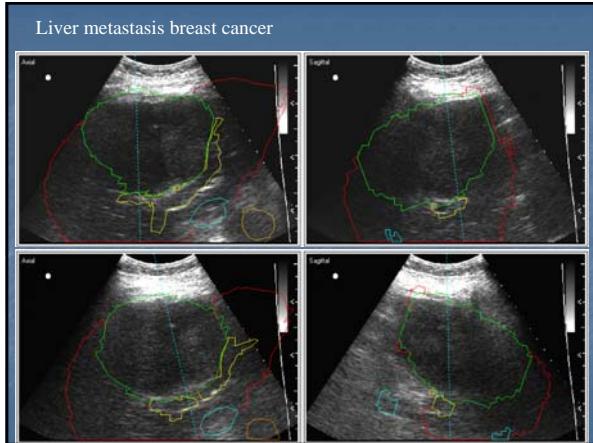
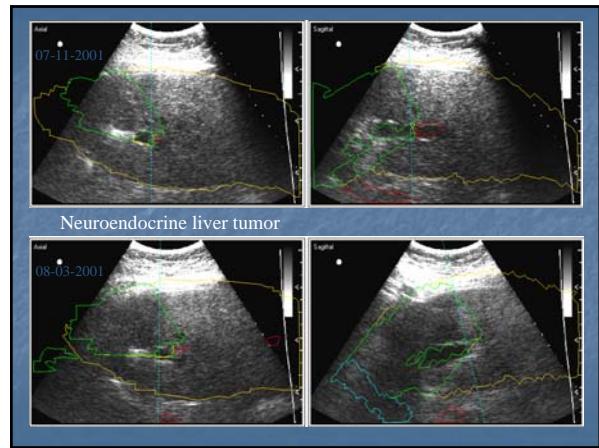
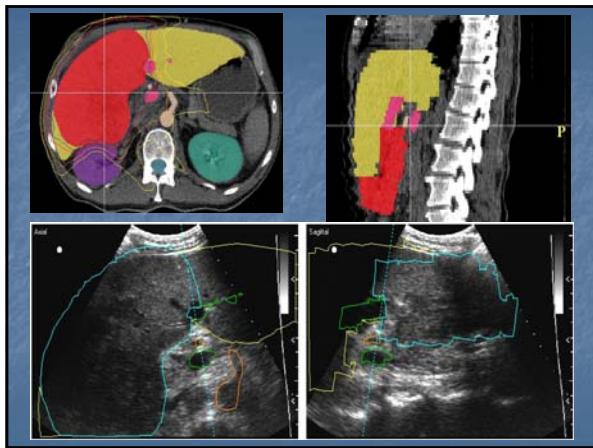
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- Without USG the minimum dose to the prostate CTV can be more than 30% lower than prescribed

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- Funny you should ask ☺





Correlation of BAT and CT positional control

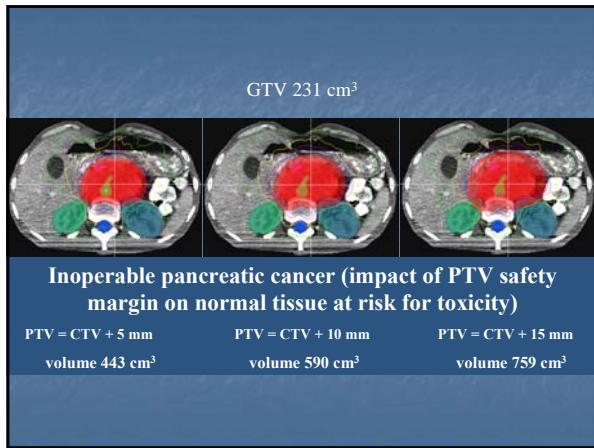
- Assessed in 15 patients
 - BAT targeting in the CT simulation suite
 - Patient in treatment position
 - Comparison between planning CT sim and control CT
 - Target setup inaccuracy compared with BAT indicated shifts

- Mean magnitude of initial setup error
 - 13.95 mm (min 2.23, max 46.56 mm)

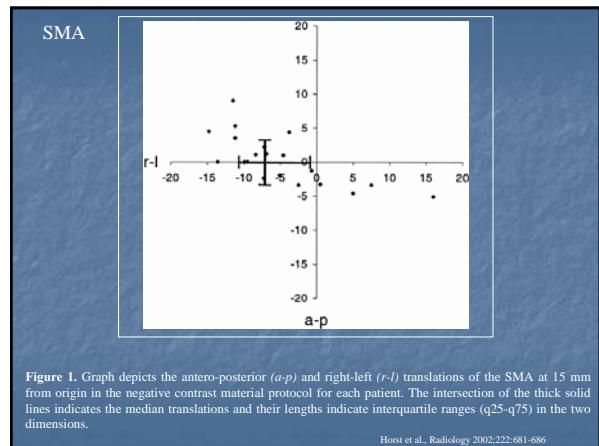
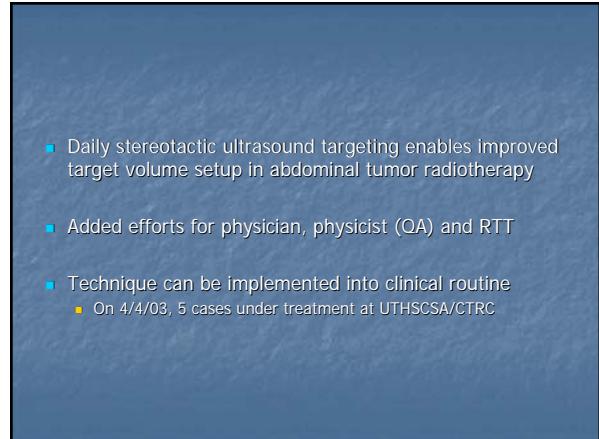
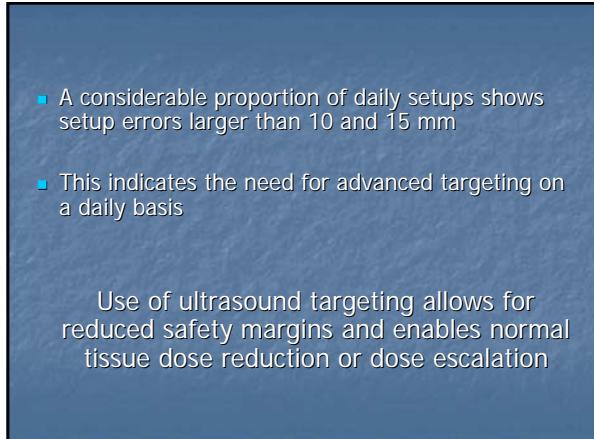
- Mean magnitude of residual setup error
 - 4.55 mm (min 1.92, max 12.82 mm)
 - mean improvement 49% (14/15 showed improvement)
 - Min -67% [1 case, initial 2.2 mm, residual 3.7 mm]
 - Max 95% [46.6 mm initial to 2.2 mm residual]

Does it matter?

Lets have a look at a clinical IMRT treatment plan



- BAT alignment for abdominal target volumes is feasible
- Direct target alignment or alignment in relation to vascular guidance structures is feasible
- significant reduction of setup errors



VOI	Right to Left (mm)			Posterior to Anterior (mm)			Cranial to Caudal (mm)		
	Median	Interquartile Range	Range	Median	Interquartile Range	Range	Median	Interquartile Range	Range
Noncontrast vs positive contrast material protocol									
Left kidney	-0.1	-1.0 to 2.5	-1.0	-3.0 to 2.1	-3.1 to 3.4	-0.7*	0.0 to 9.0	-6.0 to 15.0	
Right kidney	0.5	-0.1 to 1.4	-2.0 to 2.5	0.4	-1.5 to 1.7	-2.6 to 3.1	-1.5*	-3.0 to 0.0	-12.0 to 3.0
Pancreatic tail	-2.8	-4.0 to 3.3	-7.4 to 5.0	0.9	-2.2 to 3.2	-9.1 to 6.6	3.0*	-1.5 to 3.0	-6.0 to 15.0
Pancreatic body	-0.6	-1.4 to 0.5	-4.0 to 4.5	0.2	-2.4 to 2.4	-2.1 to 4.0	3.0*	-1.5 to 2.3	-6.0 to 12.0
Pancreatic head	-1.2	-2.9 to 0.5	-7.1 to 4.5	-0.3	-2.8 to 0.8	-5.4 to 4.1	-1.0*	-3.0 to 2.3	-6.0 to 6.0
SMA (15 mm)	-4.2†	-6.6 to 4.5	-15.6 to 8.1	0.2	-2.4 to 1.3	-5.9 to 7.2	NA	NA	NA
SMA (30 mm)	-4.6‡	-10.6 to 5.1	-17.6 to 8.4	0.4	-1.5 to 1.3	-4.3 to 2.2	NA	NA	NA
Noncontrast vs negative contrast material protocol									
Left kidney	-1.3	-2.8 to 4.0	-4.1*	-6.3 to -1.1	-9.0 to 2.0	4.1*	0.8 to 14.3	-3.0 to 24.0	
Right kidney	0.0	-2.8 to 5.0	-4.8*	-1.0 to 4.1	-2.2 to 7.0	-4.5*	-6.0 to 0.0	-12.0 to 3.0	
Pancreatic tail	-2.0	-3.8 to 3.9	-7.8 to 6.0	-0.7	-2.4 to 3.0	-14.4 to 10.5	6.0*	3.0 to 10.5	0.0 to 18.0
Pancreatic body	-1.9*	-2.6 to 1.0	-7.1 to 6.1	-2.1	-2.2 to 2.0	-2.2 to 4.9	0.0	0.0 to 4.5	-6.0 to 13.0
Pancreatic head	-1.9*	-2.6 to 1.0	-13.1 to 6.2	-1.6	-3.5 to 2.6	-12.2 to 4.9	0.0	3.0 to 3.0	-6.0 to 9.0
SMA (15 mm)	-7.1*	-10.9 to -1.2	-14.5 to 16.0	0.0	-3.1 to 3.2	-5.1 to 9.0	NA	NA	NA
SMA (30 mm)	-6.7*	-11.8 to 0.7	-20.2 to 21.8	-0.3	-3.5 to 1.8	-6.6 to 3.2	NA	NA	NA
Related VOI Pair									
Negative contrast material CT protocol									
Left kidney-caudal, SMA (15 mm)-right	0.50	.02							
Left kidney-posterior, pancreatic-craniol	0.65	.002							
Right kidney-ventral, pancreatic-tail-caudal	0.65	.000							
SMA (15 mm)-right, SMA (30 mm)-right	0.89	.001							
SMA (30 mm)-right, pancreatic-body-right	0.47	.03							
Positive contrast material CT protocol									
Right kidney-craniol, SMA (15 mm)-right	0.58	.008							
Right kidney-craniol, SMA (30 mm)-right	0.54	.028							
SMA (15 mm)-right, SMA (30 mm)-right	0.98	.001							
Pancreatic tail-caudal, pancreatic body-caudal	0.54	.025							

Huang et al. Radiology 2007;257:681-686.

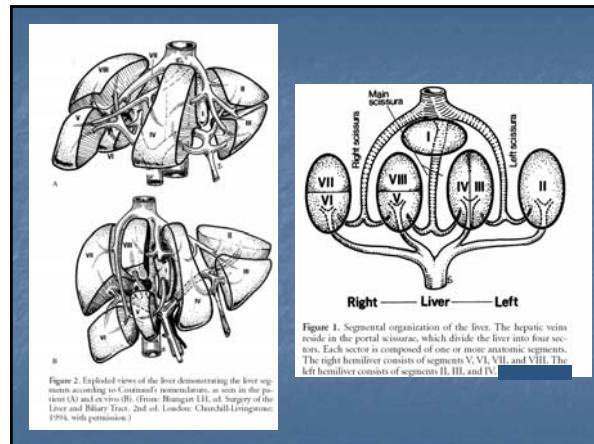


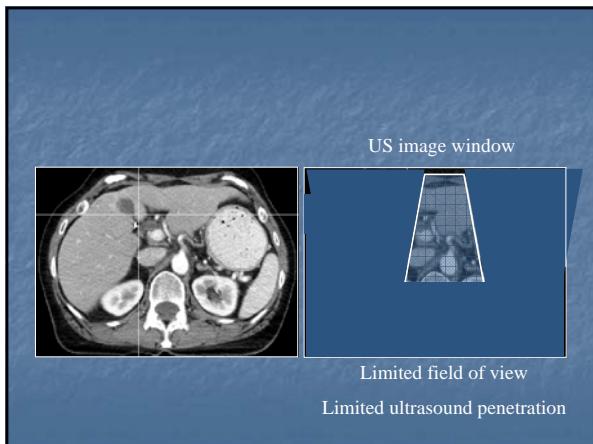
Figure 1. Segmental organization of the liver. The hepatic veins reside in the portal sinusoids, which divide the liver into four sectors. The scissura is a deep groove in one or more hepatic segments. The right hemiliver consists of segments V, VI, VII, and VIII. The left hemiliver consists of segments II, III, and IV.

Other abdominal target volumes

- Pancreas
 - Difficult to visualize in ultrasound
 - Individually close organ relation to major named vessels
- Neuroblastoma
 - Vertebral bodies are part of the CTV/PTV
 - Often close relation to abdominal/retroperitoneal vessels
 - Most often close relation with one kidney/liver

Stereotactic ultrasound targeting for abdominal target volumes: Potential limitations

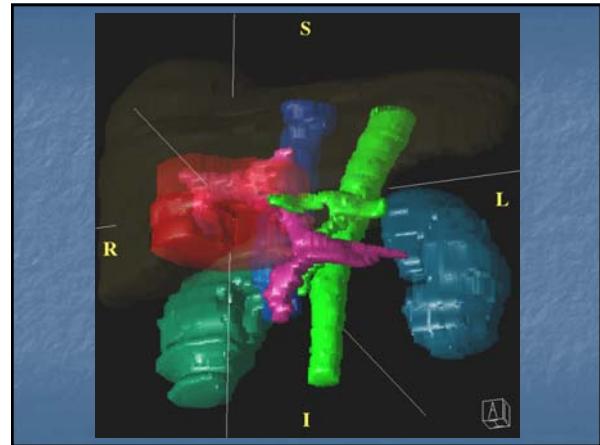
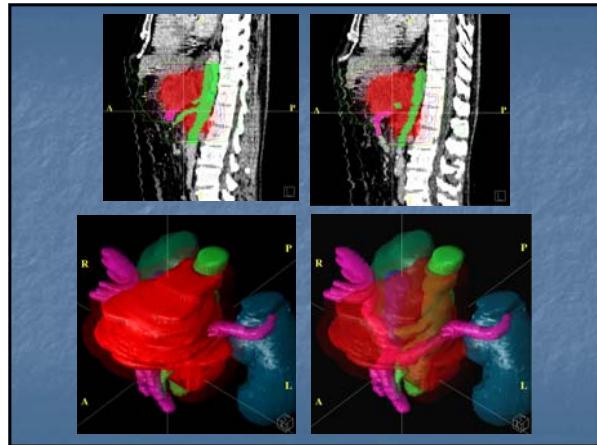
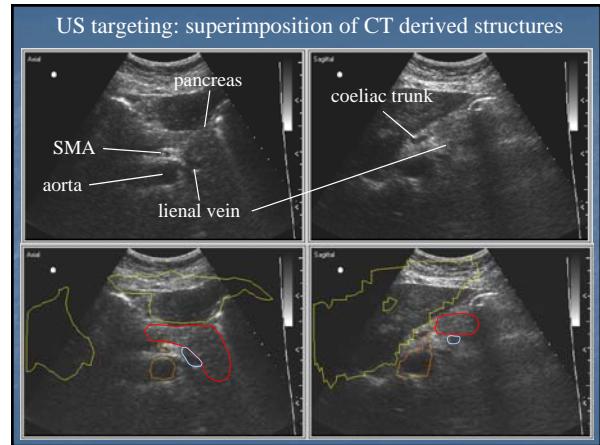
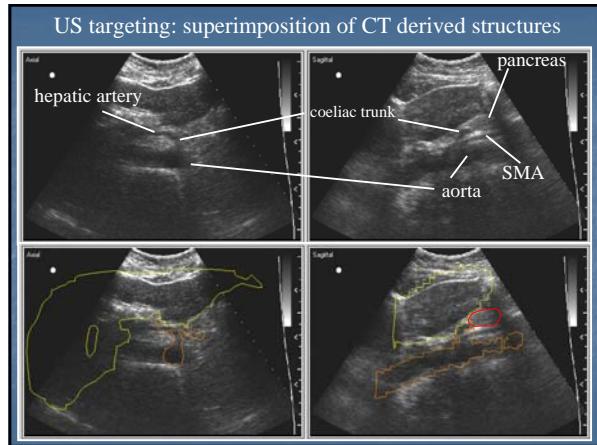
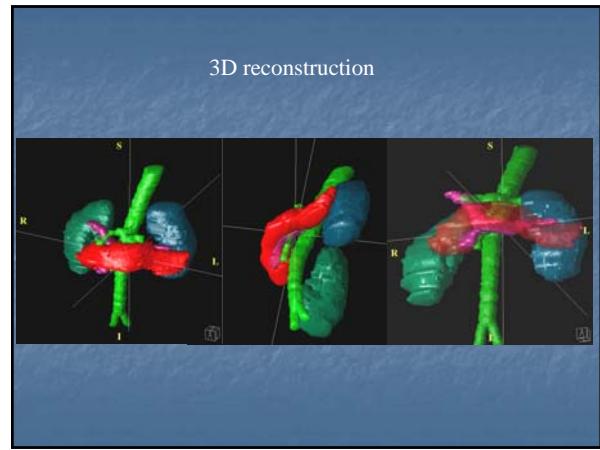
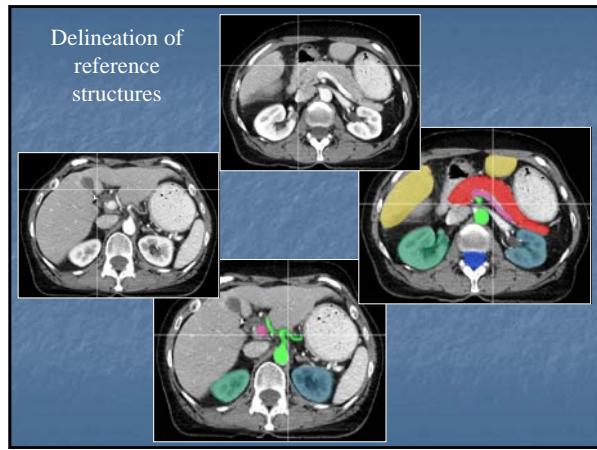
US image window

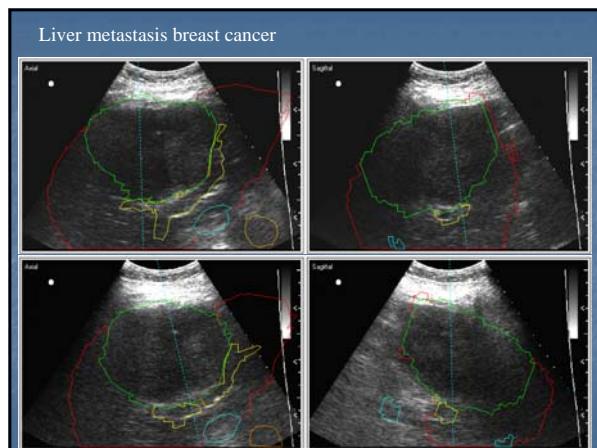
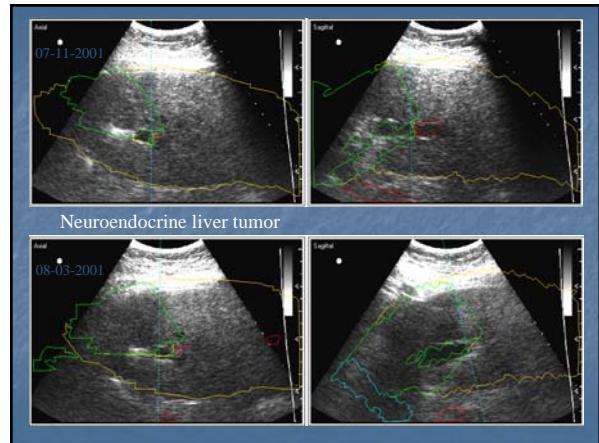
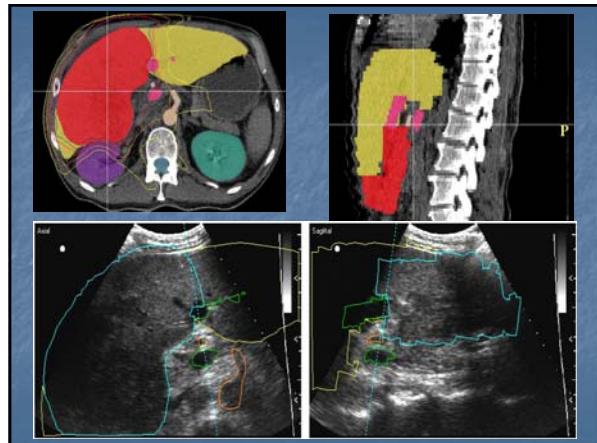
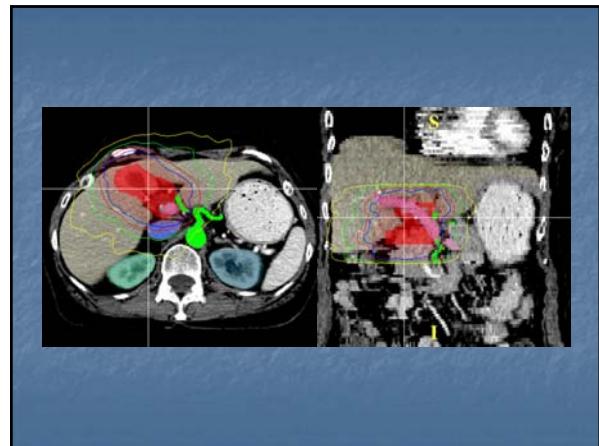
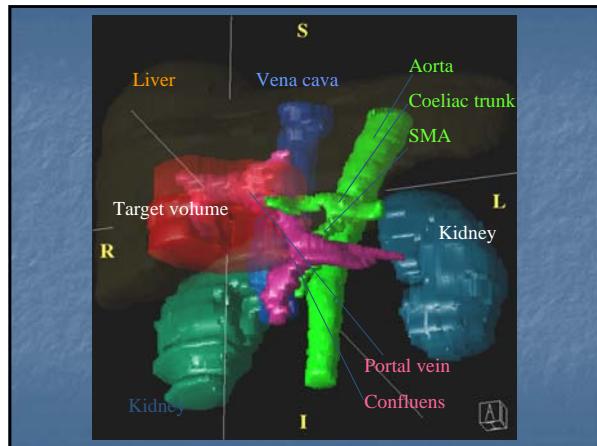


Limited ultrasound field of view

- Organ outlines may be helpful
 - Caudate lobe of the liver
 - Kidney outline
- However, organs are only partially represented
- Vasculature is well represented in ultrasound

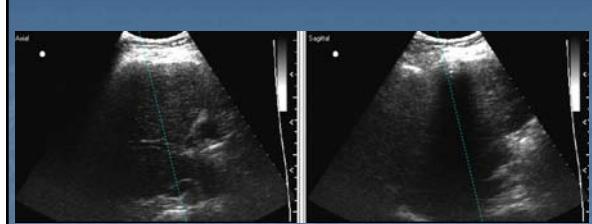
What is the value of using vasculature or other guidance structures for radiotherapy targeting in the upper abdomen?



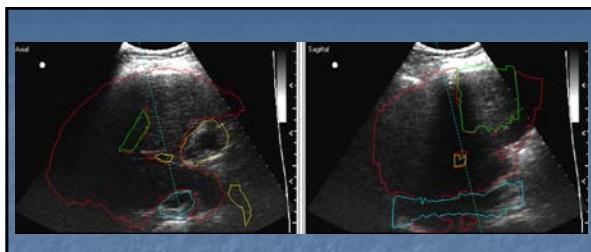


Treatment planning

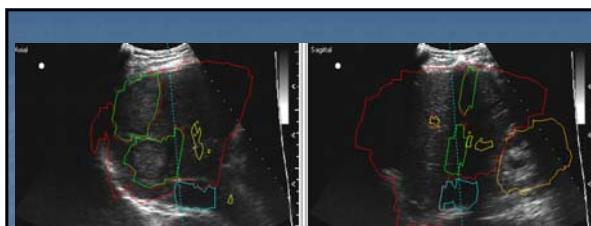
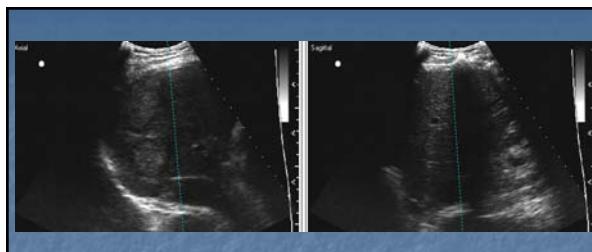
- Inverse IMRT treatment planning (Corvus, Nomos)
- Creation of a BAT study (export of structure outlines into the BAT – current limit 5 structures)



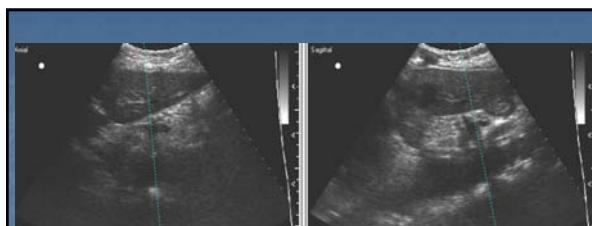
Hepatocellular Carcinoma

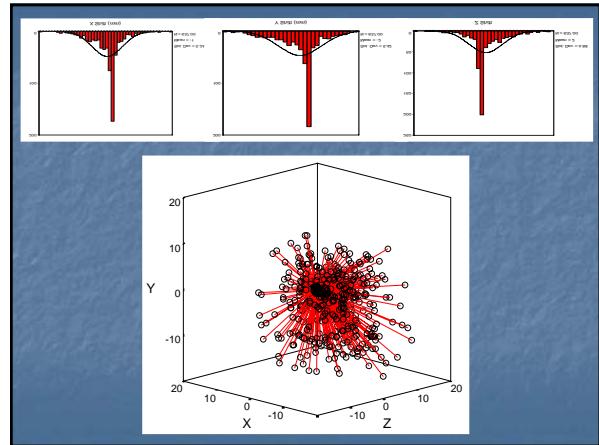
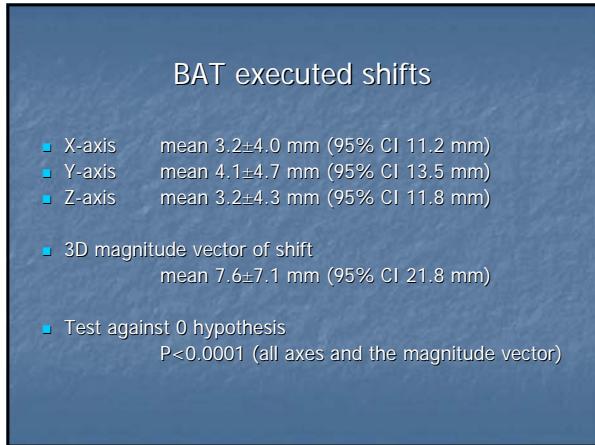
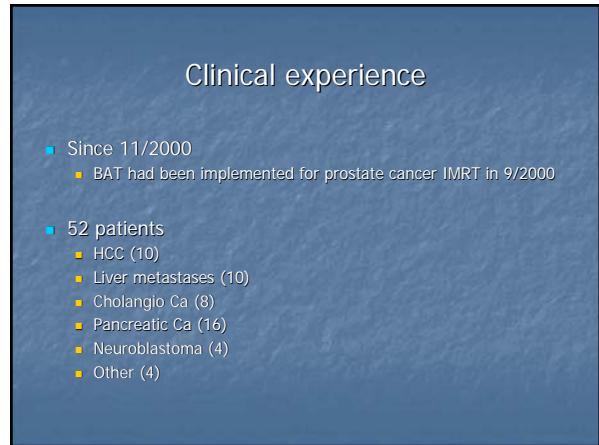
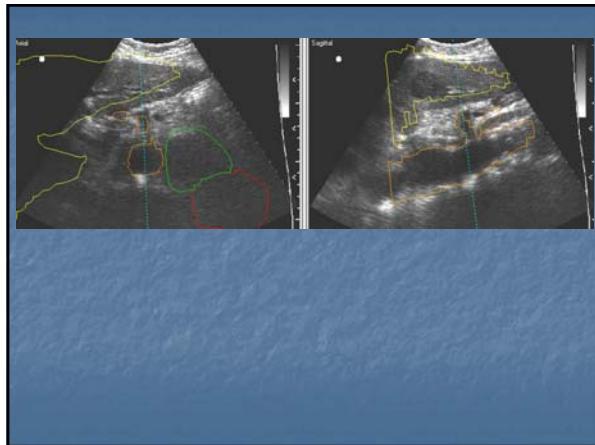
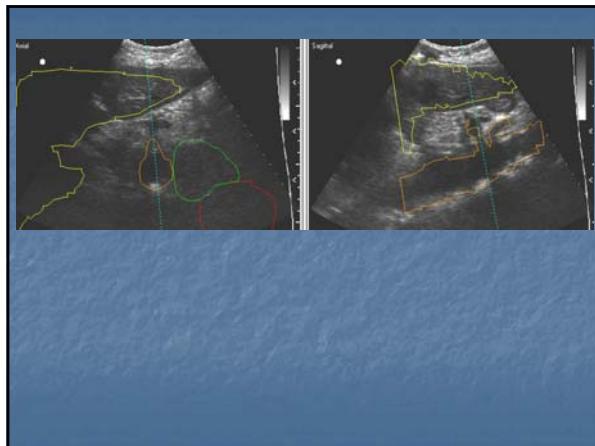


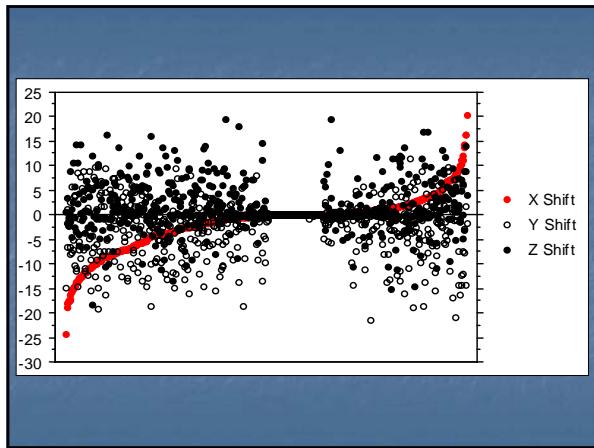
Liver Metastases



Left adrenal gland metastasis







	X-Axis	Y-Axis	Z-Axis	Any Axis	3D Vector
≥ 10 mm	18/31 Patients	13/31 Patients	17/31 Patients	22/31 Patients	24/31 Patients 77.4%
	88/637 Alignments	69/637 Alignments	52/637 Alignments	161/637 Alignments	223/637 Alignments 35%
≥ 15 mm	6/31 Patients	5/31 Patients	6/31 Patients	12/31 Patients	16/31 Patients 51.6%
	13/637 Alignments	14/637 Alignments	9/637 Alignments	44/637 Alignments	91/637 Alignments 14.3%
≥ 20 mm	2/31 Patients	2/31 Patients	1/31 Patients	5/31 Patients	9/31 Patients 29%
	2/637 Alignments	2/637 Alignments	1/637 Alignments	6/637 Alignments	22/637 Alignments 3.5%

Correlation of BAT and CT positional control

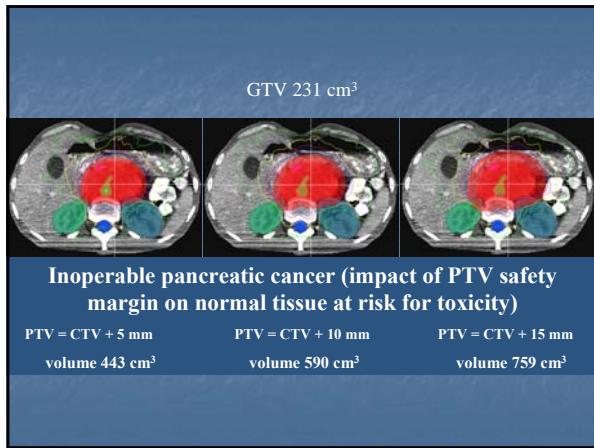
- Assessed in 15 patients
 - BAT targeting in the CT simulation suite
 - Patient in treatment position
 - Comparison between planning CT sim and control CT
 - Target setup inaccuracy compared with BAT indicated shifts
- Mean magnitude of initial setup error
 - 13.95 mm (min 2.23, max 46.56 mm)
- Mean magnitude of residual setup error
 - 4.55 mm (min 1.92, max 12.82 mm)
 - mean improvement 45% (14/15 showed improvement)
 - Min -67% [1 case, initial 2.2 mm, residual 3.7 mm]
 - Max 95% [46.6 mm initial to 2.2 mm residual]

Preliminary conclusion

- Daily stereotactic ultrasound targeting enables improved target volume setup in abdominal tumor radiotherapy
- Added efforts for physician, physicist (QA) and RTT
- Technique can be implemented into clinical routine
 - On 4/4/03, 5 cases under treatment at UTHSCSA/CTRC

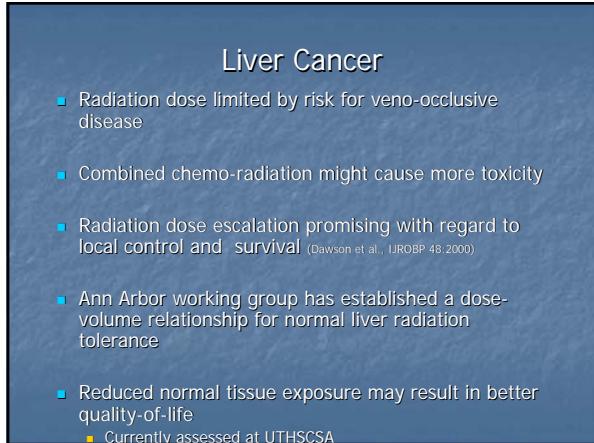
Does it matter?

Lets have a look at a clinical IMRT treatment plan

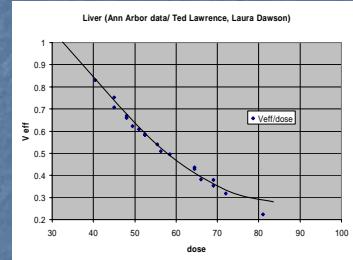


Pancreatic Cancer

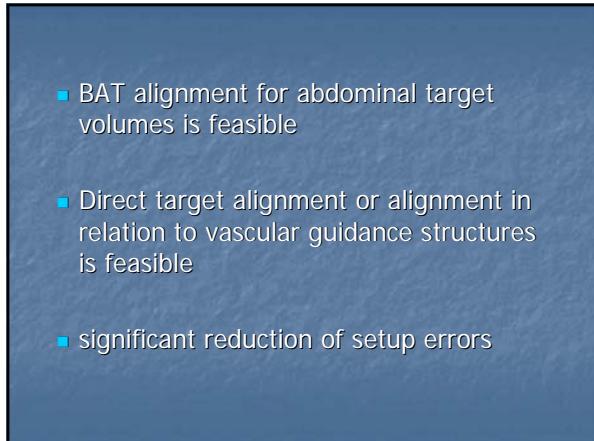
- Radiation dose limited by bowel radiation tolerance
- Combined chemo-radiation or tumor sensitization might cause more toxicity
- Radiation dose escalation promising with regard to local control – but not survival (Ceha et al., Cancer, 89:2000)
- Reduced normal tissue exposure may result in better quality-of-life
 - Currently assessed at UTHSCSA



Normal liver radiation tolerance



If the volume of normal liver tissue exposed can be reduced, significant dose escalation is enabled

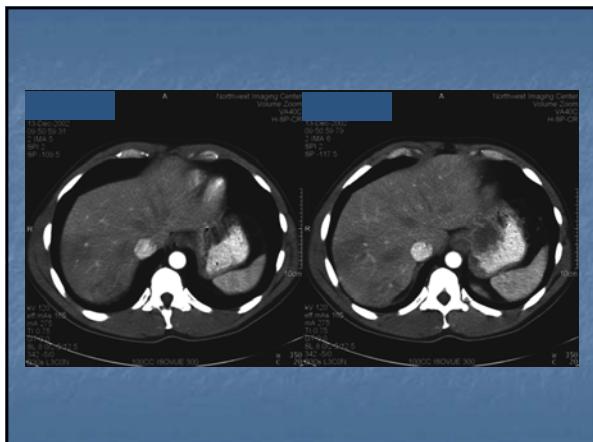
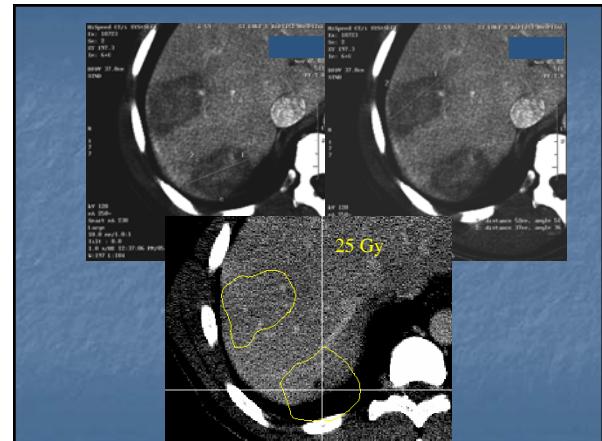
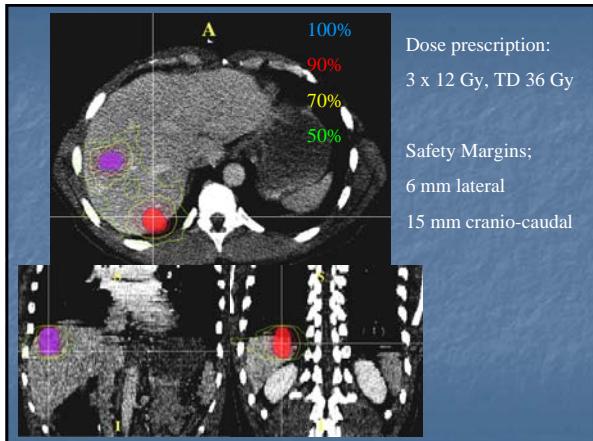
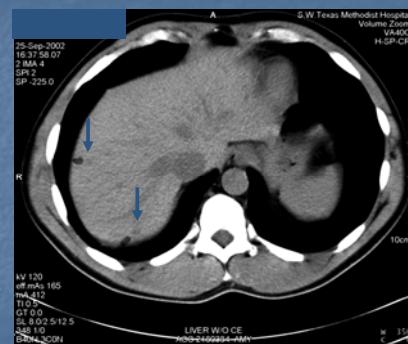


- A considerable proportion of daily setups shows setup errors larger than 10 and 15 mm
- This indicates the need for advanced targeting on a daily basis

Use of ultrasound targeting allows for reduced safety margins and enables normal tissue dose reduction or dose escalation

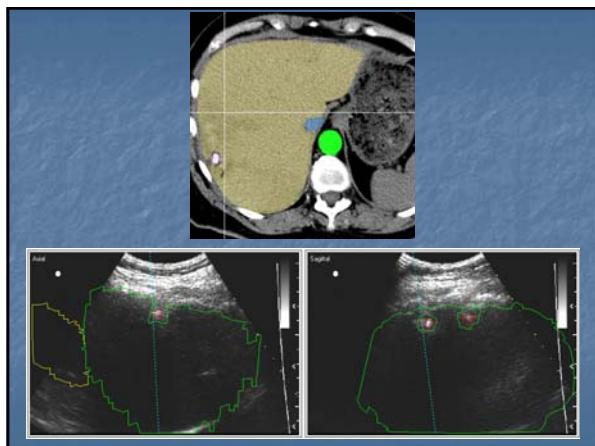
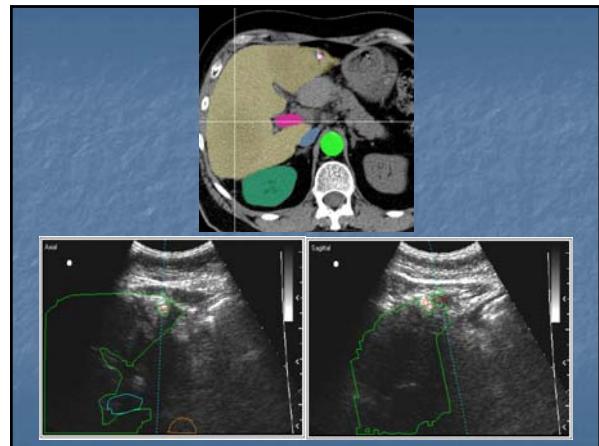
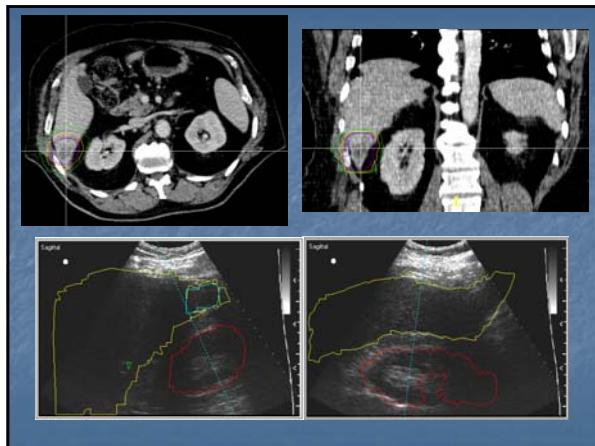
Ultrasound targeting may be valuable for hypofractionated treatments or extracranial radioablation procedures

Hepatic metastases – colorectal cancer

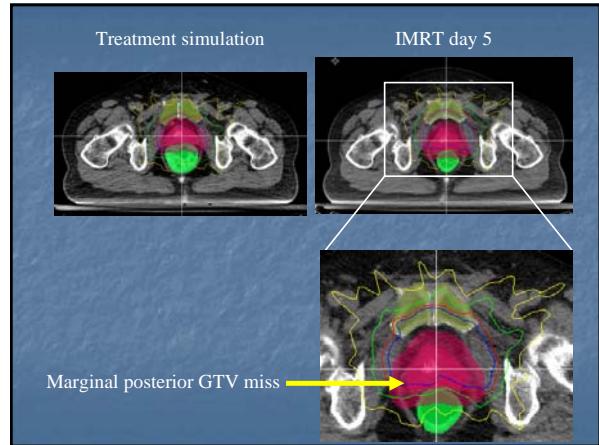
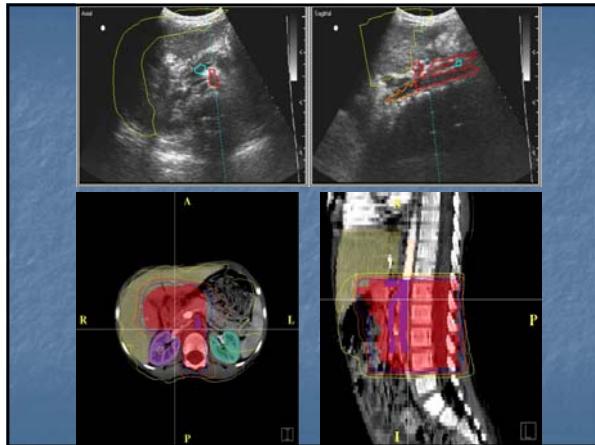


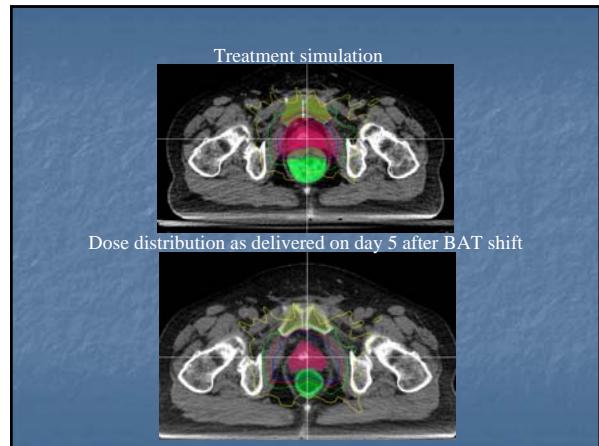
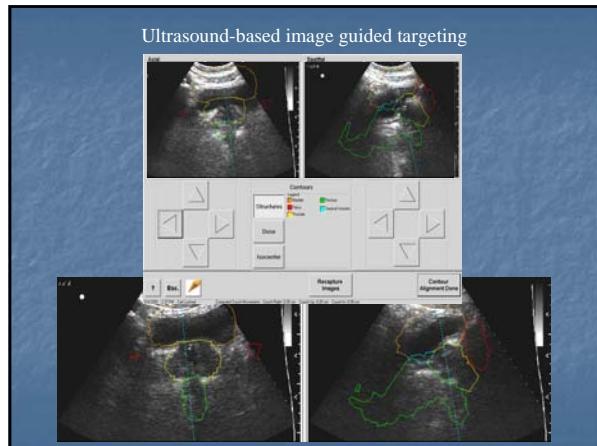
Potential challenges in ECRA of liver lesions

- Patient and target setup
 - Most important factor
 - Largest variation
- Most often refers to bony landmarks
- Breathing motion and organ displacement due to differential breathing pattern and bowel filling will occur
 - Potential solutions:
 - Gating devices
 - Image-guided targeting
 - Anesthesia, iatrogenic pneumothorax, high frequency Jet ventilation



- Bill J. Salter, PhD
- Amir Sadeghi, PhD
- Sean Cavanaugh, MD, PhDc
- Irma Diaz, CMD
- Lynn Warcola, RT(R)(T)
- Anita Sands, RT(T)
- Sain Buxton, RT(R)(T)
- Art Escobedo, RT(R)
- Loretta Medina, RT(T)





Rationale to use the BAT

- Setup to skin marks may not indicate target position due to relative target movement to bony structures and skin
- Problem: tight safety margins and conformal dose distributions might lead to target miss

Why use the BAT?

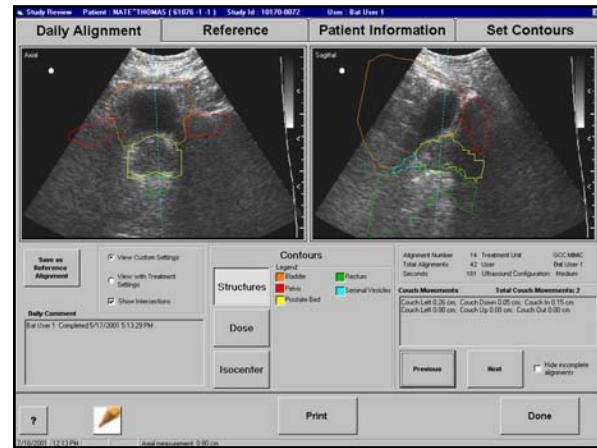
- The BAT can visualize the target directly and give positional information about target and organs at risk
- Target structures move on a day to day basis. The BAT is an accurate way to make daily adjustments in couch position for those movements
- Ideally it allows for a decrease in the planning target volume (PTV) and keeps the radiated area more closely approximated to the clinical target volume

BAT alignment

- Patient is aligned according to skinmarks and room lasers
- An ultrasound image of the patient is taken with the patient on the treatment couch (in treatment position) immediately before XRT
- Axial and sagittal images are taken

Ultrasound image & target

- The previous outlined target and organs at risk (derived from treatment planning CT) are superimposed on the BAT's ultrasound image
- The system allows for virtual shifts of the CT volumes until a best match between US and CT is accomplished.
- The system indicates the required couch shifts.

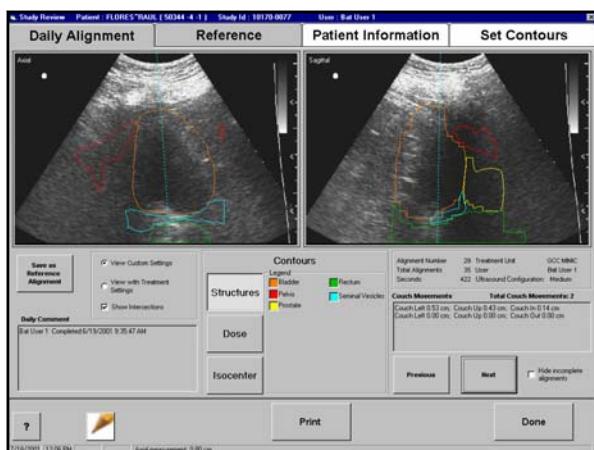


Example of BAT patients

- 62 year old treated for prostate cancer
- He presented to UH in 1998 with a PSA of 20.6. He had a needle biopsy performed that revealed an infiltrating moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma,
- It was T1C (tumor on needle biopsy of non-palpable mass)
- Gleason grade 3 (3+0 or 2+1?)
- He received hormone treatment and his PSA dropped to 6.8 in 5/99

BAT patient continued

- He was recently referred to the CTRC for evaluation for radiotherapy
- He received 7700 cGy to his prostate in 33 fractions
- The following slide is his image on the BAT and illustrates an image that is difficult to overlay with Corvus outlines



Problems for US Prostate Imaging

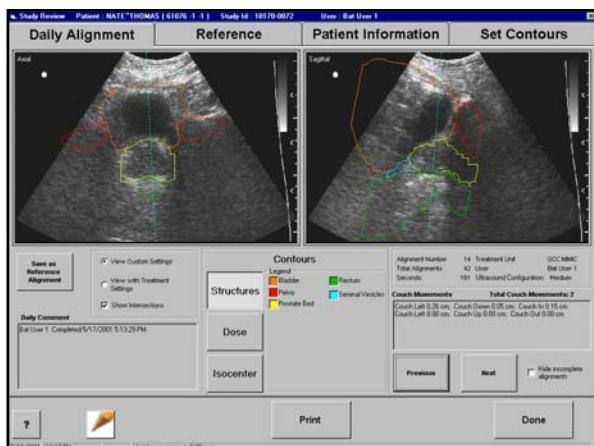
- Low bladder volume
- Small size of prostate
- Large body habitus (thick abdominal wall)
- Occasionally deep pelvic bowel (transverse colon)

BAT patient continued

- 66 year old also referred to the CTRC for treatment of prostate cancer
- He is a VA patient who had a PSA of 4.2 in 1998
- In 9/2000 his PSA was 10.1
- His biopsy showed adenocarcinoma with a Gleason score of 6
- T3 (Tumor invades capsule or adjacent structure, but is not fixed)

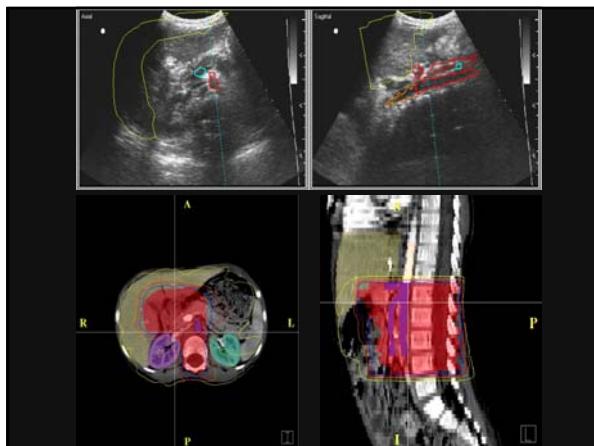
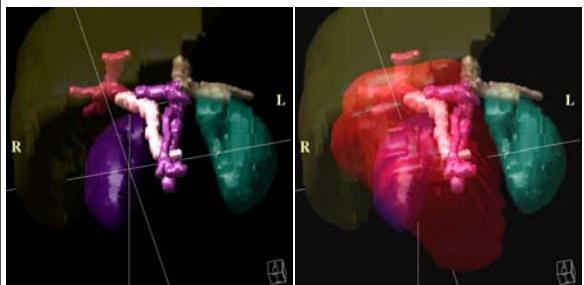
BAT patient continued

- He was treated with 7400 cGy to his prostate
- 30 fractions of 200 cGy
- A boost of 1400 cGy in 7 fractions
- The following slide is his image on the BAT and illustrates an image that was easy overlay with Corvus outlines



Case 1: 4-yrs old male, inoperable neuroblastoma

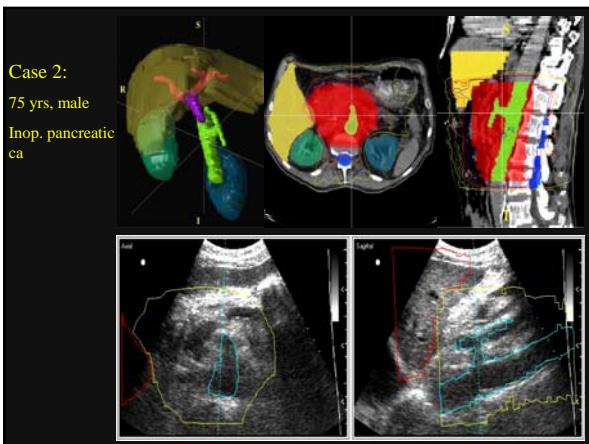
AP/PA 12 Gy bid, IMRT 12 Gy bid (POG 9341) after chemo

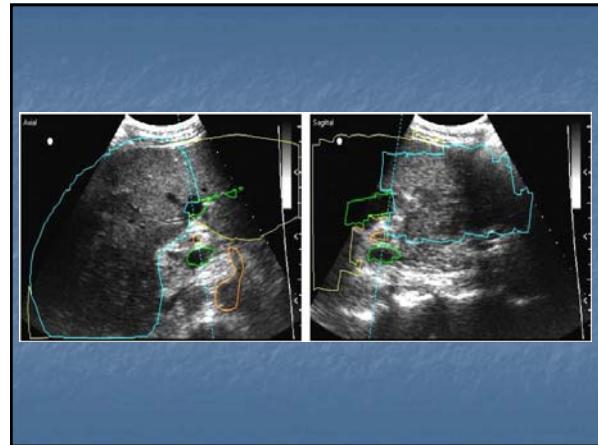
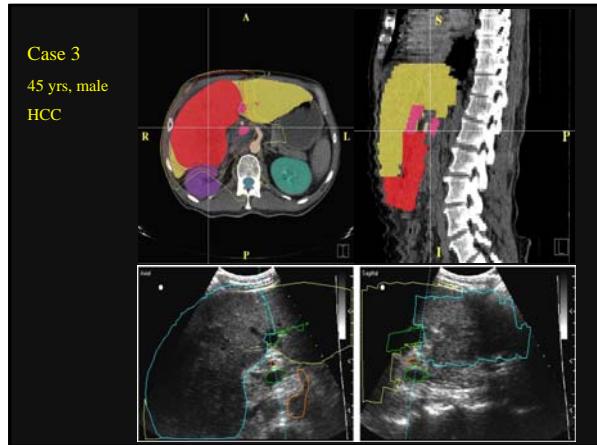
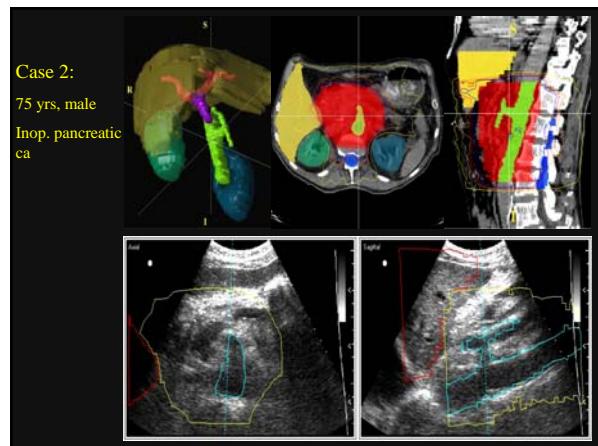
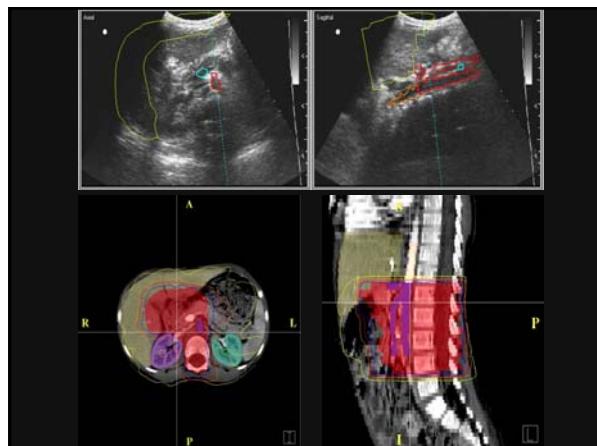
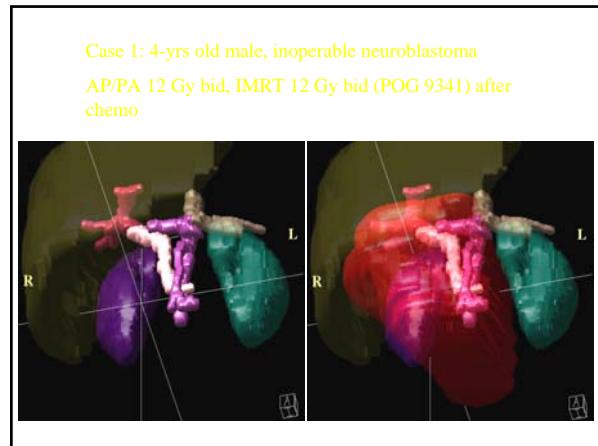


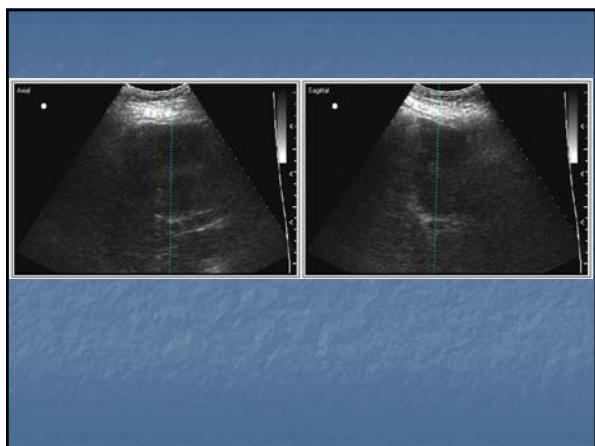
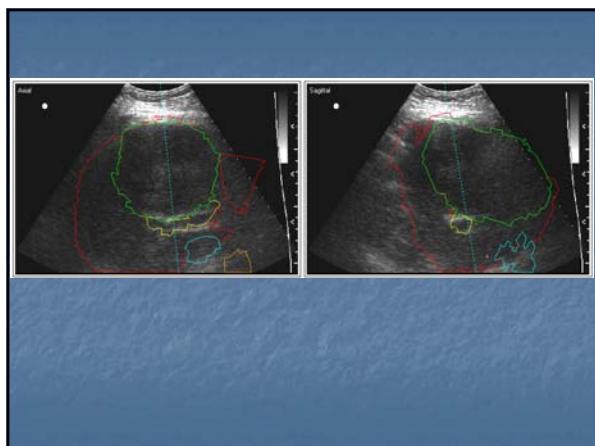
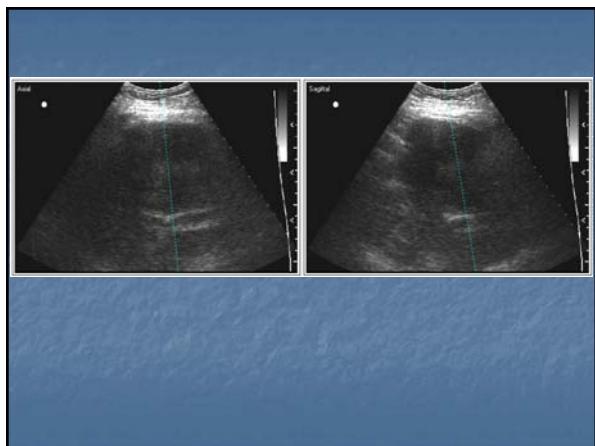
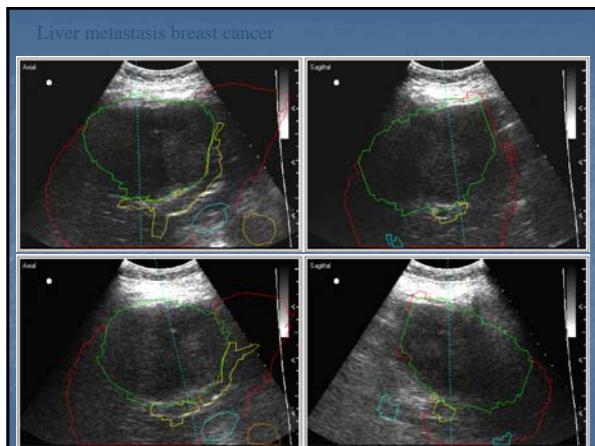
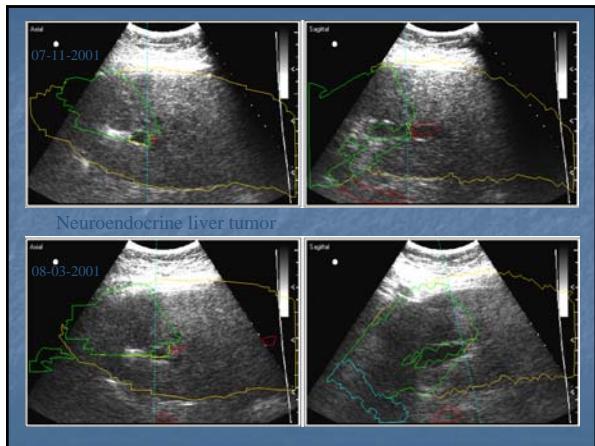
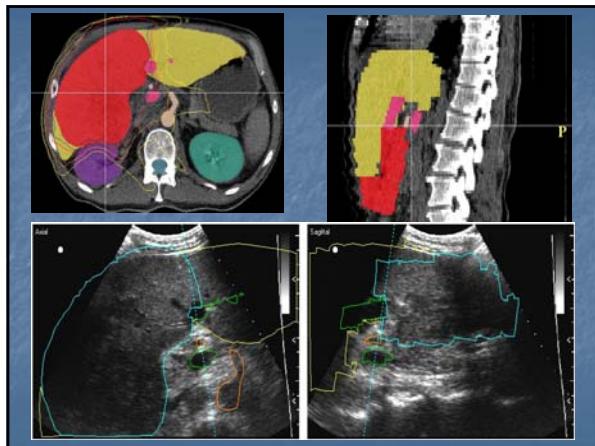
Case 2:

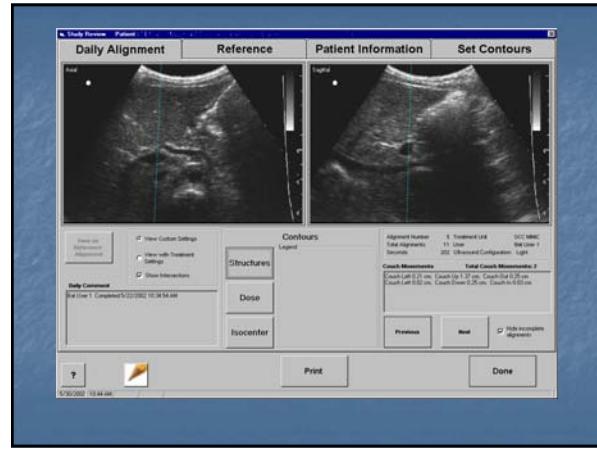
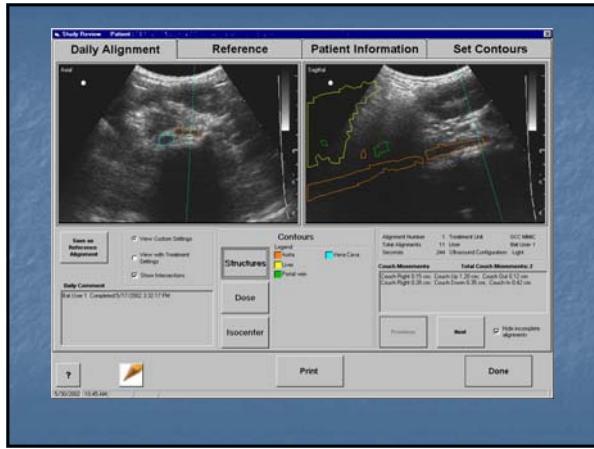
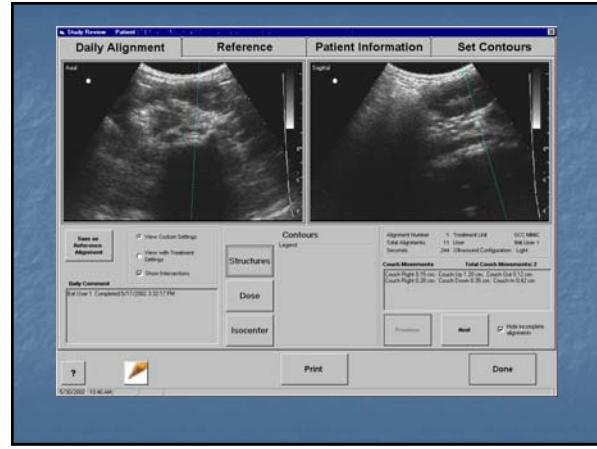
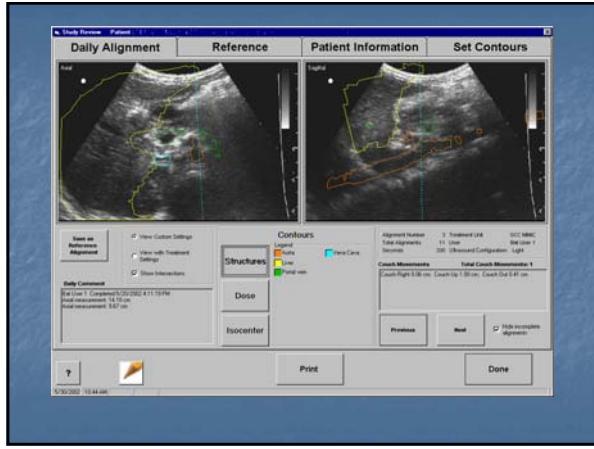
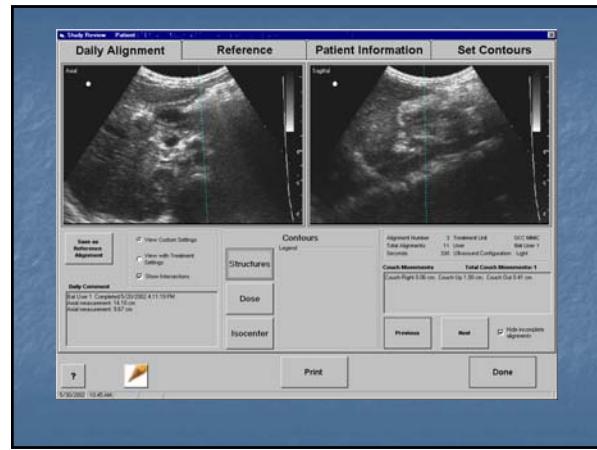
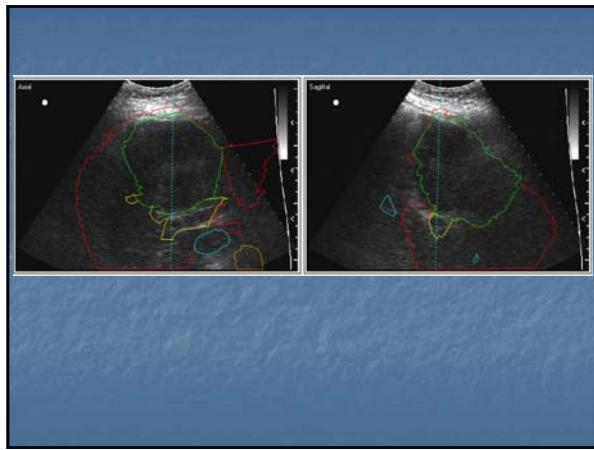
75 yrs, male

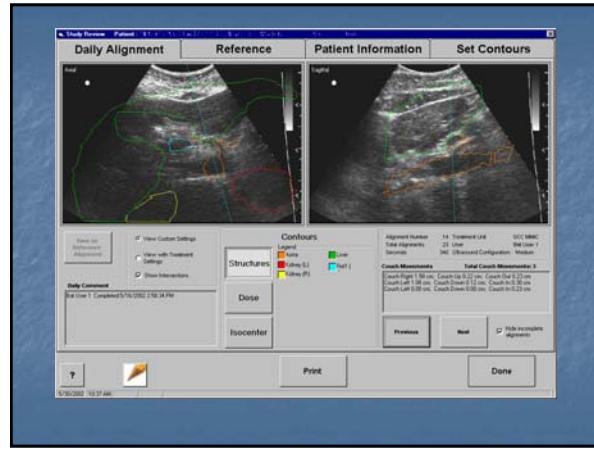
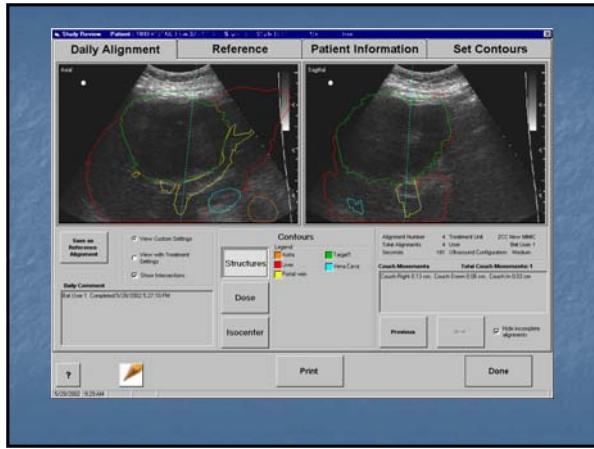
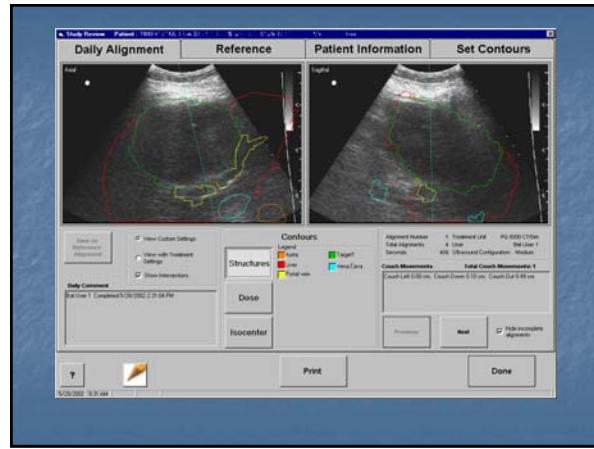
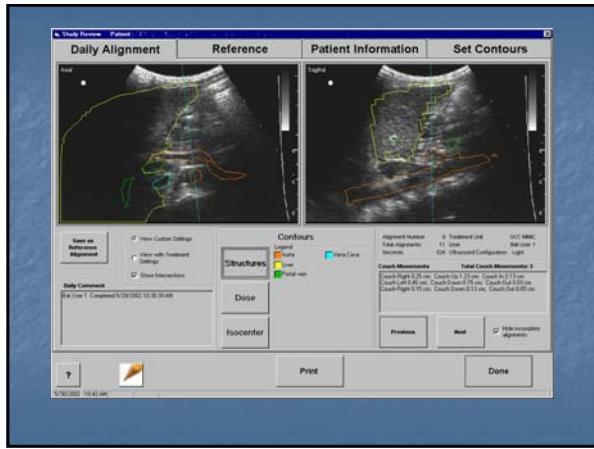
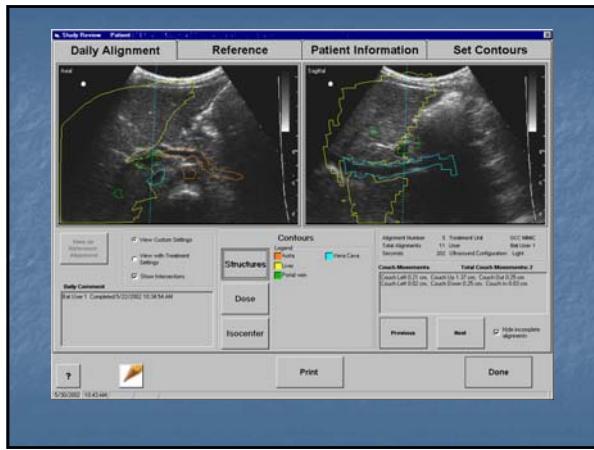
Inop. pancreatic ca

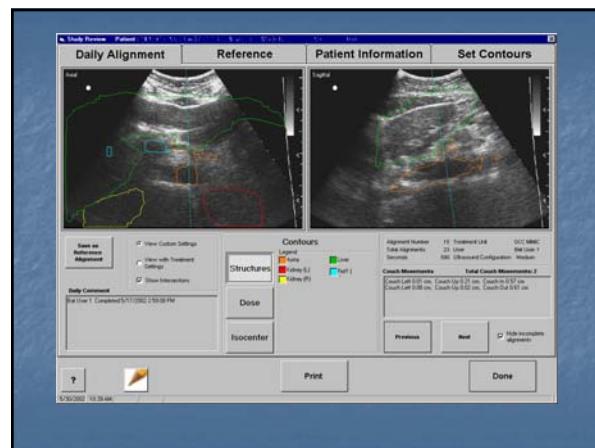
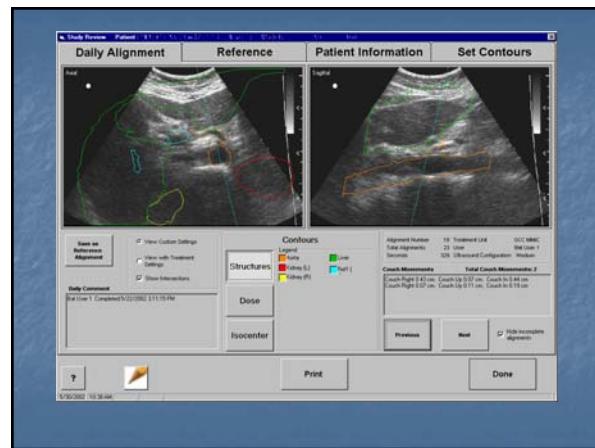
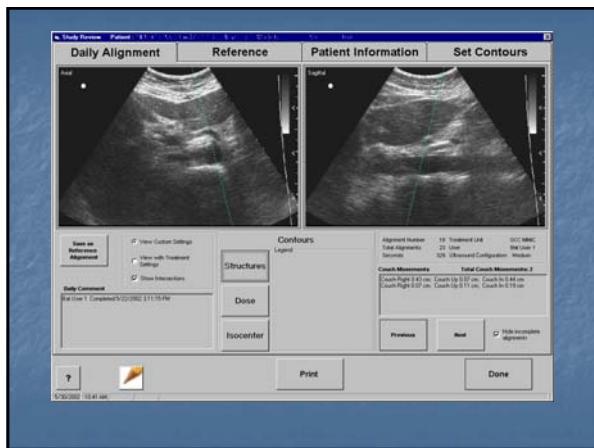
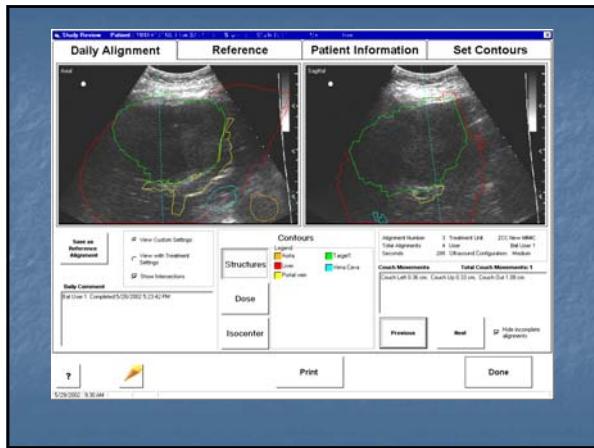






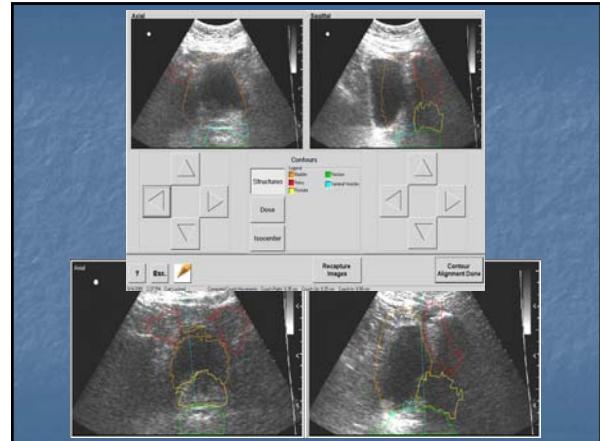




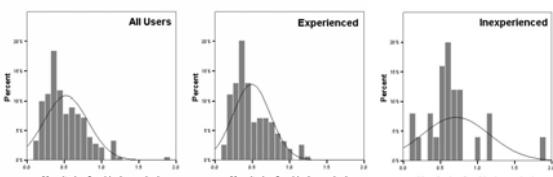


Positional variation of the prostate gland within the pelvis

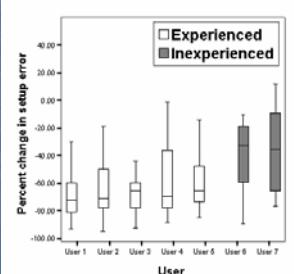
- Balter et al. IJROBP 1993 12 mm (95% CI)
- Roach et al. IJROBP 1994 7.5 to 22 mm (non-uniform)
- Lattanzi et al. Urology 2000 15 to 20 mm
 - initial skin mark based setup errors derived from BAT shifts



Objective assessment magnitude of residual setup error



Objective assessment percent change in setup error



Objective assessment percent change in setup error

