

A dosimetric study is performed on a newly designed Pd-103 radioactive source (model MED3633) for interstitial brachytherapy such as prostate implants. Its dosimetric parameters are compared with a current widely used Pd-103 source (Therased 200). Whereas outer dimensions of the two types of sources are similar, the inner structures are different. Each MED3633 seed has six linear spheres encased by a titanium shell, four outer resins are radioactive, and the inner two serve as radio-opaque X-ray markers, compared with Therased's two radioactive rods separated by an X-ray marker. Three measurements are done to characterize its dosimetric properties, a) air kerma strength determination using a well chamber; b) TLD irradiation in acrylic and custom-made wax phantom; c) autoradiograph using a verification film. The air-kerma-strength measurements indicated that the manufacture specified apparent activity of MED3633 is larger by 20% than that of Therased 200 for the same air-kerma strength. The relative and absolute dose rate constants, and the radial functions are obtained by the in-phantom TLD measurement. The results show the two types of sources are within 5% of each other and consistent with values adopted by TG43. Autoradiograph of the sources (with sufficient build-up) with XV film not only gives radial functions, but also anisotropy functions. Software was developed to analyze the films, and derive the desired functions. The radial functions and anisotropic factor  $\Phi_{an}$  values ( $0.92 \pm 0.05$ ) derived from these films are consistent with adopted values by TG43. These results show that MED3633 and Therased 200 are equivalent dosimetrically.