

Purpose: To use generalized equivalent uniform dose (gEUD) to evaluate the dose distributions of patients with non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) planned for stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT).

Methods and Materials: Thirty-eight stage I-II lung cancer patients with 41 lesions treated with SBRT were analyzed. For each patient a Pencil Beam (PB) algorithm-based treatment plan was produced. Monte Carlo (MC)-based treatment plans were calculated using the same number of monitor units, for each beam, as in the PB-based plan. Spearman rank correlation coefficients between gEUD with different parameter a values and dose-volume endpoints D_x and V_x were computed and compared. The effects of PTV diameter on dose differences between PB-based plans and MC-based plans were also analyzed using gEUD.

Results: The Spearman rank coefficient as a function of the a value in the gEUD produced functions with unique maxima for the PTV (0.995) and normal lung tissue (0.989). For PB-based plans, the parameter a correlated best with V_5 , V_{10} , V_{20} and D_{95} for a values of 0.7, 0.9, 2.2 and -24 respectively. For the MC-based plans, these values of a were 0.8, 1.1, 2.4, and -22, respectively. gEUD differences between MC- and PB-based plans were found to be inversely proportional to the PTV diameter. These differences were found to increase with decreasing values of a , as the gEUD converges to the minimum PTV dose.

Conclusion: Spearman rank analysis showed good correlation between gEUD and dose-volume endpoints as a function of the a parameter in the gEUD model. Further investigation is needed to correlate these a values with biologically meaningful results for tumors and normal tissues in the context of lung SBRT in the clinical setting.

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