

## **ASTROEmergingTechnologyCommittee(ETC): ActivitiesandInitiatives**

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ASTROEmergingTechnologyCommittee

InOctober2005, theBoardoftheDirectorsoftheAmericanSocietyforTherapeutic  
RadiologyandOncology (ASTRO)actedto createanEmergingTechnologyCommittee  
(ETC).The missionoftheCommittee is:

To provideaproactive resource for allstakeholders:ASTROmembersand staff,  
industry,commercialpayors,healthcareorganizations, andgovernment, inthe  
applicationandintegrationofnewandemerging technologiesintothepracticeof  
radiationoncology.

TheCommitteewasformedin clear recognitionofthe criticalroleplayedby newand  
emergingtechnologies andproceduresinthepracticeofRadiationOncology, the  
responsibilityoftheSocietyin developmentofclinically and evidence-basedpolicy  
regardingthesetechnologiesandprocedures, andadeterminationthatthefour ASTRO  
Councilsshouldhave a more clear andcoherentroadmapregardingnewtechnologiesand  
proceduresfortheirindividual policy decision-makingandprogramming.

A significantamountoftimeandeffortwasspentin developmentofpoliciesand  
proceduresnecessaryto enablesmooth andconsistentfunctionofthe new Committeeand  
that would, to thegreatest extentpossible, avoidconflictand risktotheSocietyfrom  
Committeeactions.

Sinceits implementation, theCommitteehasinitiatedsix projectsfortechnology and/or  
procedureevaluation. Theseprojectsare:

- Doseescalation andnormaltissueprotectionin prostatecancer
- Electronicbrachytherapy
- Interactivelocalizationandtrackingdevices
- Protonbeamradiationtherapy
- Stereotacticbodyradiationtherapyforprostatecancer
- Stereotacticbodyradiationtherapyfornon-smallcelllungcancer

Thestatusandresultsoftheseprojectswillbepresentedindetail, aswillanoverviewof  
Committee procedures.