Effective Treatment Planning with Imperfect Models and Uncertain Biological Parameters

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Translating Physics and Biology into the Clinic
Tuesday September 23, 2008
2:30 to 4:30 pm
From whence the biological parameters?

Random and systematic patient setup errors
Inter-patient heterogeneity

Intra-tumor heterogeneity
Dosimetry

Combined treatments

Interpretation of clinical outcomes

Analysis

LQ model
Poisson TCP

Imperfect and highly non-linear models
LKB-NTCP model

Biological Parameters

α, α/β

Repair rate (τ)

Cell and tissue kinetics

Tolerance Dose ($TD_{50}$)

Biologically Guided Treatment Planning?

Temporal Alterations in Dose Delivery
(e.g., external beam vs brachytherapy implants)

New treatment technologies

Altered dose distributions
Altered radiation quality

Imperfect and highly non-linear models

Uncertain Biological Parameters

Current Treatment

Clinical Outcome
(Better?, Same? Worse?)

Fraction: 1.7 – 2.3 Gy
(35 fractions)

Tumor Control Probability

α = 0.15 Gy\(^{-1}\), α/β = 3.1 Gy
(5% standard deviation)

Total Treatment Dose (Gy)
Equivalent Dose to a Tumor Target

What dose must be delivered to achieve the same level of biological damage as another treatment?

Reference Treatment $\quad$ Alternate Treatment

$TCP(D_R) = TCP(D)$

$\exp(-\rho VS(D_R)) = \exp(-\rho VS(D))$ Poisson TCP model

$\rho = \text{cell density (}\# \text{ cm}^{-3})$ $\quad V = \text{tumor volume (cm}^3)$

When considering radiation effects in the same patient, $\rho$ and $V$ may be considered treatment independent constants.

$S(D_R) = S(D)$ Two biological parameters ($\rho$ and $V$) eliminated from modeling process

For individual patients, iso-TCP = iso-survival
Equivalent Dose derived from the LQ

Reference Treatment = Alternate Treatment
\[ S(D_R) = S(D) \]
\[ \exp\left( -\alpha D_R - \beta GD_R^2 \right) = \exp\left( -\alpha D - \beta GD^2 \right) \]

\[ D = \frac{\alpha / \beta}{2G} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4G \ln S(D_R)}{\alpha (\alpha / \beta)}} \right\} = \frac{\alpha / \beta}{2G} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4GD_R}{(\alpha / \beta)} \left( 1 + \frac{G_R D_R}{\alpha / \beta} \right)} \right\} \]

\( D \) is the total treatment dose needed to achieve same biological effect as a reference treatment that delivers total dose \( D_R \)

Determined by the value of \( \alpha/\beta \) and the dose protraction factor for the reference and alternate treatments \( G \) and \( G_R \)
Lea-Catcheside Dose Protraction Factor

Instantaneous absorbed dose rate (e.g., Gy/h) at time $t$

$$G = \frac{2}{D^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \int_{-\infty}^{t} dt' \frac{\dot{D}(t)}{\dot{D}(t')} \exp\{-\lambda(t-t')\}$$

Absorbed dose (Gy)

Probability per unit time sub-lethal damage (= DSB) is rejoined

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{\tau} \quad \text{Repair half-time}$$

Dose $d$ (fraction size) delivered during time interval $\Delta t$ (fraction delivery time)

$$g = 2(e^{-x} + x - 1) / x^2$$

$$x \equiv \lambda \Delta t = \Delta t \ln 2 / \tau$$

Series of $n$ daily fractions

$$G = \frac{g}{n} \approx \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{if } \Delta t << \tau$$

(assumes repair complete between fractions)

$g$ is always between 0 (large delivery time) and 1 (short delivery times)
Effect of Fraction Delivery Time

Assume the fraction delivery time for the reference treatment is very short compared to the repair half-time ($\Delta t << \tau$)

$$G_R = \frac{1}{n_R} \quad \text{Reference Treatment}$$

$$G = \frac{g}{n} \quad \text{Alternate Treatment}$$

$$d = \frac{D}{n} \quad \frac{D_R}{n_R}$$

$$x = \frac{\Delta t \ln 2}{\tau}$$

$$g = 2(e^{-x} + x - 1) / x^2$$

Physical Parameters: $n, n_R, \Delta t, D_R$ (small or no uncertainty)

Biological Parameters: $\alpha/\beta$ and $\tau$ (large uncertainty)
Effect of fraction delivery time

Keep fraction delivery time < 5-10 minutes to maximize local tumor control
Nominal impact on normal tissues as long as dose small compared to $\alpha/\beta$
Equivalent Fractionation Schedules

An equivalent treatment dose $D$ can be determined by adjusting the physical parameter $n$

$$D = \frac{n(\alpha / \beta)}{2g} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4gD_R}{n(\alpha / \beta)} \left( 1 + \frac{D_R}{n_R(\alpha / \beta)} \right)} \right\}$$

$$g = 2(e^{-x} + x - 1) / x^2 \quad x = \Delta t \ln 2 / \tau$$

**Reference Treatment**

(“clinical experience”)

$D_R = \text{total dose (Gy)}$

$n_R = \text{number fractions}$

$\Delta t << \tau$ (“short” fraction delivery time)

$d_R = D_R/n_r \ (\text{fraction size})$

**New Treatment**

$n = \text{desired number fractions}$

Uncertainty in $D$ primarily arises from uncertainties associated with $\alpha/\beta$.

$$g \cong 1 \ \text{when} \ \Delta t << \tau$$
Equivalent Treatments (local tumor control)

\[ D = \frac{n(\alpha / \beta)}{2g} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4gD_R}{n(\alpha / \beta)} \left( 1 + \frac{D_R}{n_R(\alpha / \beta)} \right)} \right\} \]
Intra-Tumor and Inter-Patient Heterogeneity

Formula premised on the idea that $\alpha/\beta$ (and $\tau$) are the same for the reference and alternate treatments.

Inter-Patient Heterogeneity

All patients have a different value for $\alpha/\beta$ (*unknown distribution*). BUT... same value for $\alpha/\beta$ is appropriate (as a first approximation) for all treatments in the same patient.

Intra-Tumor Heterogeneity

Individual tumor cells have different values of $\alpha/\beta$ (*unknown distribution*). But, again, same for all treatments

How sensitive are estimates of $D$ to uncertainties in $\alpha/\beta$?
Sensitivity to $\alpha/\beta$

10,000 values for $\alpha/\beta$ sampled from a uniform pdf  
(range 1 to 10 Gy)
Non-Uniform Dose Distributions

Apply formula on a voxel-by-voxel basis to determine biologically equivalent 3D dose distributions.

\[
D_i = \frac{n(\alpha / \beta)}{2g} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4gD_{R,i}}{n(\alpha / \beta)} \left( 1 + \frac{D_{R,i}}{n_R(\alpha / \beta)} \right)} \right\}
\]

Extrapolation is \textit{non-linear} and not overly sensitive to value of $\alpha/\beta$.
Ranking and Comparing 3D Distributions

Same basic approach can be used to convert 3D dose distributions into an equivalent uniform dose (EUD)

\[ S(EUD) = S_{avg} \]

Surviving fraction averaged over target volume

\[ S_{avg} \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} \rho_i V_i \exp\left(-\alpha D_i - \beta G D_i^2\right) \]

\[ EUD = \frac{\alpha / \beta}{2G} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4G \ln S_{avg}}{\alpha(\alpha / \beta)}} \right\} \]


\[ gEUD = \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} D_i^a \right)^{1/a} \]

\[ D_i = \frac{\alpha / \beta}{2G} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4G \ln S(D_{R,i})}{\alpha(\alpha / \beta)}} \right\} \]

*voxel-by-voxel* corrections for dose rate, fraction size, ...
Effects of Radiation Quality

Outcome Low LET = Outcome High LET

\[
S(D_L) = S(D_H)
\]

\[
\exp\left(-\alpha_L D_L - \beta_L G_L D_L^2\right) = \exp\left(-\alpha_L D_L - \beta_L G_L D_L^2\right)
\]

Take logarithm, apply quadratic formula and rearrange terms

\[
D_H = \frac{n_H (\alpha / \beta)_H}{2g_H} \left\{-1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4g_H D_L}{n_H (\alpha / \beta)_H} \cdot \frac{\alpha_L}{\alpha_H} \left(1 + \frac{g_L D_L}{n_L (\alpha / \beta)_L}\right)}\right\}
\]

Formula has explicit corrections for total dose, fraction size, and dose rate effects – the effects of radiation quality are implicit in the biological parameters.

\[
\alpha_H, (\alpha/\beta)_H, (\alpha/\beta)_L, \alpha_L, \tau_H \text{ and } \tau_L \text{ (expect } \tau_L \leq \tau_H)\]
Effects of LET on $\alpha$ and $\alpha/\beta$

Combined Use of Monte Carlo DNA Damage Simulations and Deterministic Repair Models to Examine Putative Mechanisms of Cell Killing

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$\alpha = \theta \Sigma + \kappa \bar{z}_F \Sigma^2$

$\bar{z}_F \approx 0.204 \frac{LET}{d^2}$

$\alpha / \beta = \frac{2}{\Sigma} \left( \frac{\theta}{\kappa} + \bar{z}_F \Sigma \right)$

$\theta$ and $\kappa$ are biological parameters that are independent of LET up to ~ 100 keV/μm

$\Sigma = \text{number of DSB Gy}^{-1} \text{cell}^{-1} \ (\text{estimated using Monte Carlo simulations})$

Isoeffect calculations with two adjustable parameters ($\theta$ and $\kappa$) instead of four ($[(\alpha/\beta)_H$, $(\alpha/\beta)_L$, $\alpha_L$, and $\alpha_H$] – effects of LET explicit
Effect of LET on $\alpha$ and $\alpha/\beta$ (*Human Kidney T1 cells*)

\[ \alpha = \theta \Sigma + \kappa \bar{z}_F \Sigma^2 \]

\[ \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \frac{2}{\Sigma} \left( \frac{\theta}{\kappa} + \bar{z}_F \Sigma \right) \]

\[ ^2\text{H}^+ \]
\[ \theta = 5.025 \times 10^{-3} \]
\[ \kappa = 1.593 \times 10^{-5} \]

\[ ^4\text{He}^{2+} \]
\[ \theta = 1.003 \times 10^{-2} \]
\[ \kappa = 3.204 \times 10^{-6} \]
Relative Biological Effectiveness (RBE)

Predicted RBE in distal end (last mm) of Bragg peak > 1.1
(compare to generic clinical RBE of ~ 1.1 for the SOBP)
Isoeffect Calculations – A Summary

- **Easy-to-use** method to guide the selection of equivalent fractionation schedules and 3D dose distributions
  - Corrections for fraction delivery time (“dose rate effects”), fraction size, radiation quality, repopulation effects, oxygen effects, …
  - Small number of biological parameters ($\alpha/\beta$ most critical one)
  - Potential to use Monte Carlo DNA damage simulations to account for oxygen and LET effects with 2 adjust parameters ($\theta$ and $\kappa$) instead of ($\alpha/\beta)_H$, ($\alpha/\beta)_L$, $\alpha_L$, $\alpha_H$

\[
D = \frac{n(\alpha / \beta)}{2g} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4gD_R}{n(\alpha / \beta)} \left( 1 + \frac{D_R}{n_R(\alpha / \beta)} \right)} \right\}
\]

Need approximate value for ($\alpha/\beta$) and $\tau$ (to compute $g$)

\[
\alpha = \theta \Sigma + \kappa \bar{z}_F \Sigma^2 \quad \alpha / \beta = \frac{2}{\Sigma} \left( \frac{\theta}{\kappa} + \bar{z}_F \Sigma \right)
\]
Inter-patient and Intra-tumor Heterogeniety

Small changes in a fractionation schedule quite reasonable

*despite* uncertainties in biological parameters

\[ D_R = 79.2 \text{ Gy ("clinical experience")} \]

\[ D_R = 60 \text{ Gy ("clinical experience")} \]
Treatment Individualization?

Outcome Reference Patient = Outcome \(i^{th}\) (specific) Patient

\[ S(D_R) = S(D_i) \]

\[ \exp\left(-\alpha_R D_R - \beta_R G_R D_R^2\right) = \exp\left(-\alpha_i D_i - \beta_i G_i D_i^2\right) \]

Take logarithm, apply quadratic formula and rearrange terms

\[ D_i = \frac{(\alpha / \beta)_i}{2G_i} \left\{ -1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4G_i D_R}{(\alpha / \beta)_i} \cdot \frac{\alpha_R}{\alpha_i} \left(1 + \frac{G_R D_R}{(\alpha / \beta)_R}\right)} \right\} \]

Analysis of clinical outcomes for patient population: \((\alpha/\beta)_R, \alpha_R, \tau_R (G_R)\)

Use, for example, predictive assays or functional imaging to estimate patient-specific parameters \((\alpha/\beta)_i, \alpha_i, \text{ and/or } \tau_i (G_i)\)

\[ \frac{\alpha_i}{\alpha_R} \propto \{\text{measured quantity}\} \quad \frac{(\alpha / \beta)_i}{(\alpha / \beta)_R} \propto \{\text{measured quantity}\} \]
Hypothetical Patient Groups

An analysis of clinical outcomes suggests that the overall tumor response for a patient population can be characterized by

$$\alpha_R = 0.15 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \quad (\alpha / \beta)_R = 3 \text{ Gy}$$

A dose limiting normal tissue ($\alpha/\beta = 4 \text{ Gy}$) can tolerate 15 Gy over 20 fractions.

Now imagine that a new technique allows us to separate the patient population into two tumor response groups…

**Group 1:**

$$\frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_R} = 2 \pm 0.4$$

$$\frac{(\alpha / \beta)_1}{(\alpha / \beta)_R} = 20 \pm 4$$

$$\alpha_1 = 0.3 \pm 0.06 \text{ Gy}^{-1}$$

$$(\alpha / \beta)_1 = 60 \pm 12 \text{ Gy}$$

**Group 2:**

$$\frac{\alpha_2}{\alpha_R} = 0.8 \pm 0.2$$

$$\frac{(\alpha / \beta)_2}{(\alpha / \beta)_R} = 0.6 \pm 0.3$$

$$\alpha_2 = 0.12 \pm 0.03 \text{ Gy}^{-1}$$

$$(\alpha / \beta)_2 = 1.8 \pm 0.9 \text{ Gy}$$
Potential for Dose Escalation (Groups 1 and 2)

Might increase number of fractions for group 1 ($n > 20$)
Very desirable to decrease number of fractions for group 2 ($n < 20$)
Concluding Remarks

Isoeffect calculations are the preferred way to tackle many treatment-related activities

- Assess, design and compare dose escalation studies
  - Studies from multiple clinics
  - Optimal number of fractions (fraction size and total dose)
- Assess and correct for deviations from a planned treatment
  - Patient setup errors and organ motion
  - Missed treatment days or interrupted treatments
- Leverage existing clinical experience with low LET radiation when introducing new techniques and dose delivery technologies
  - Proton therapy, new brachytherapy sources and procedures
  - Combined treatments (e.g., brachytherapy with an IMRT boost)
  - Compare and rank 3D dose distributions (EUD)
  - Alterations in the temporal pattern of radiation delivery (fraction delivery time, shortened overall treatment time)
- Aid in the analysis of clinical outcomes
- Aid in the implementation of individualized treatments

Research still needed to develop and, especially, validate models and methods – but the future looks promising!
Thank You

*Translating Physics and Biology into the Clinic*

Tuesday September 23, 2008
2:30 to 4:30 pm

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- Joseph O. Deasy, Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Radiation Oncology
- Yue Cao, University of Michigan Health System, Department of Radiation Oncology
- Robert Jeraj, University of Wisconsin Medical School, Department of Medical Physics
- Rob Stewart, Purdue University, School of Health Sciences