

The background image shows the exterior of the DKFZ Heidelberg building, a modern multi-story structure with a central glass facade and concrete wings. In the foreground, there is a paved plaza with several small water fountains. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# Cancer Radiotherapy Introduction

**Prof Dr. Joao Seco, DKFZ Heidelberg**

**Dr. Hans-Peter Wieser, LMU München**

**Dr. Niklas Wahl, DKFZ Heidelberg**

**Questions are welcome at any time**

# How to Treat Cancer ....

## With minimal side-effects



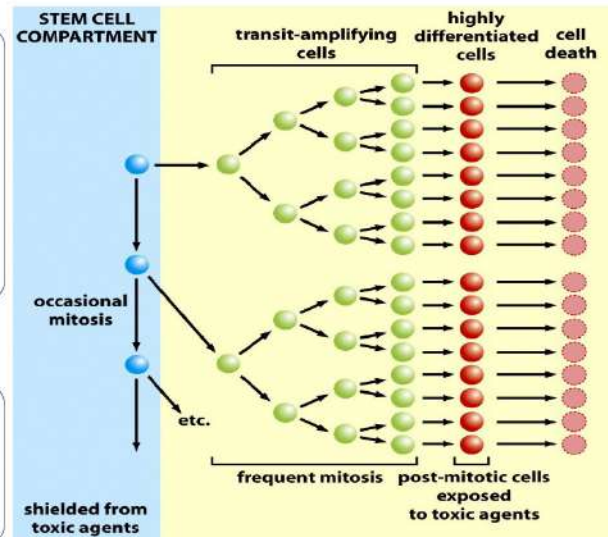
- Holy grail of oncology
- Identify characteristics that distinguish tumor cells from normal cells
- Design a Monotherapy that selectively ablates tumor cells

# Some Biology...

## Tissue organization and protection of the stem cell genome

stem cells can renew themselves through mitotic cell division and can differentiate into a diverse range of specialized cell types

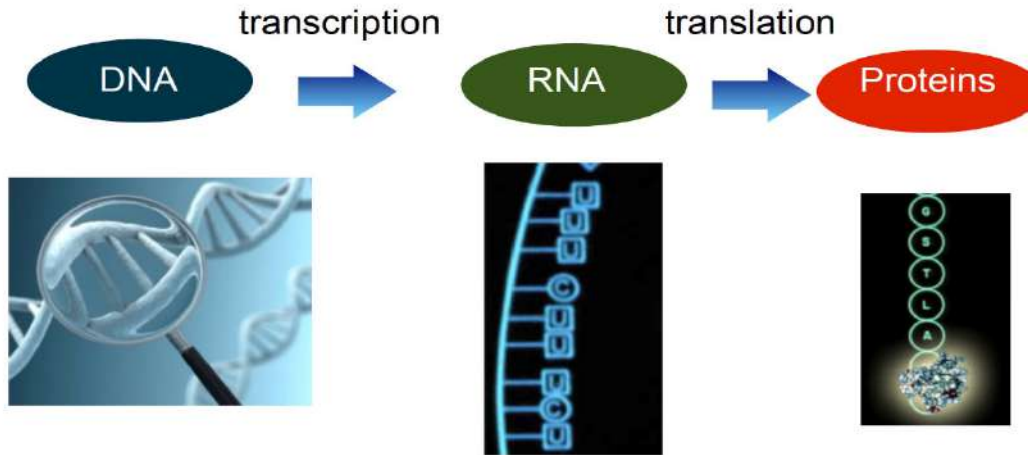
the two broad categories of mammalian stem cells are embryonic stem cells & adult stem cells



The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

# Some Biology...

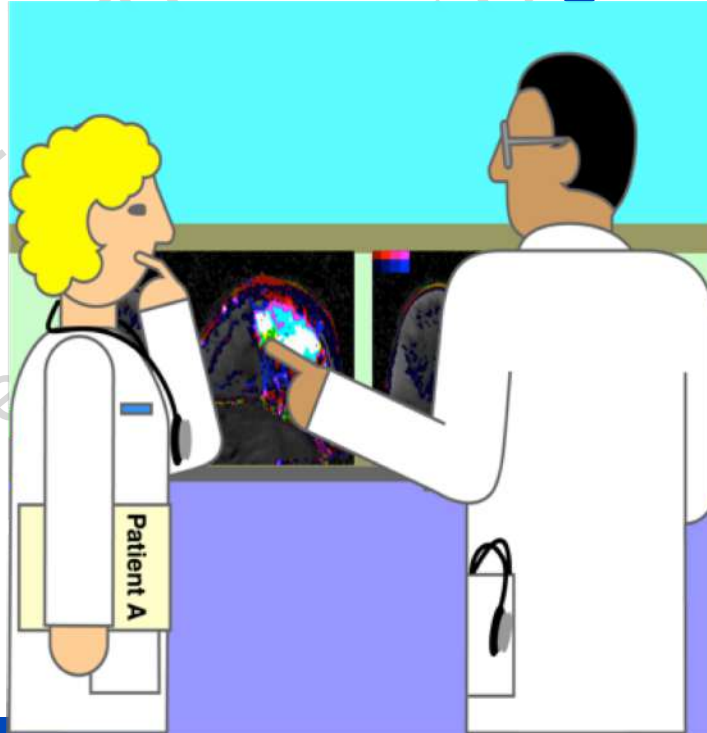
The flow of genetic information





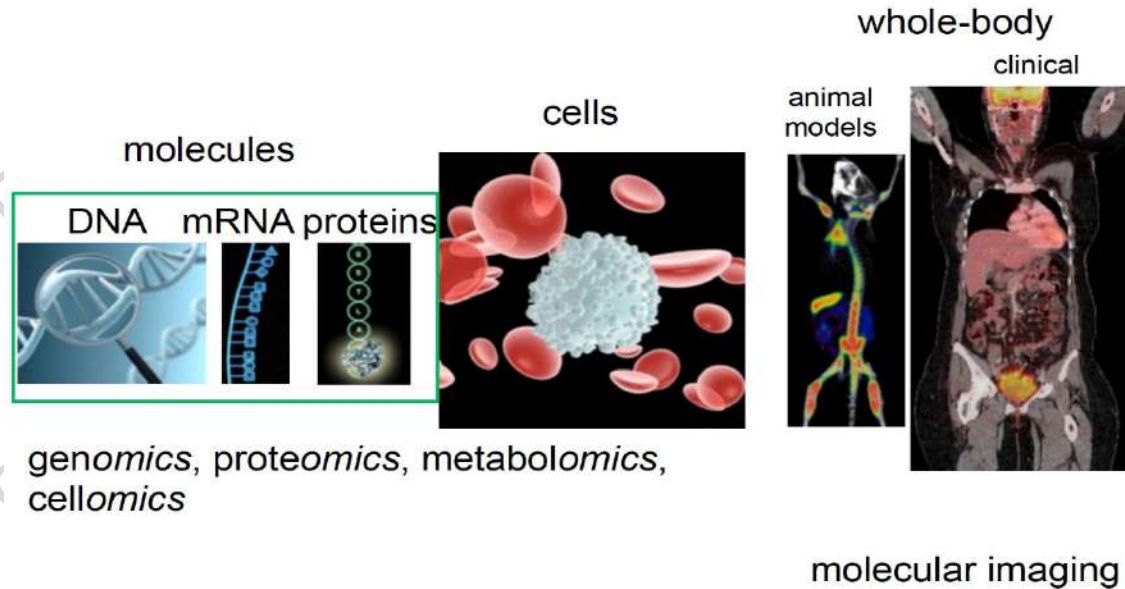
# Some Biology...

## How is cancer diagnosed?



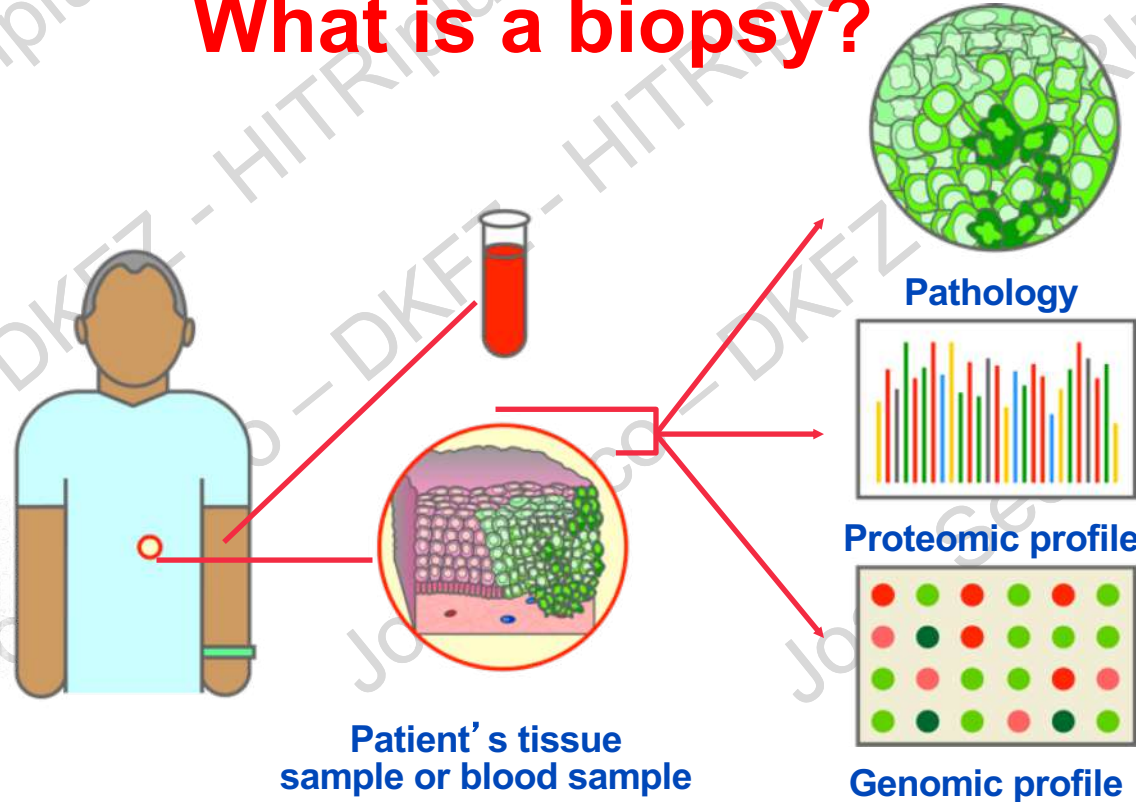
# Patient Diagnostic Evaluation

Measuring biological processes at different scales



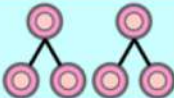













# Let's start with Biology ...

## What is a biopsy?



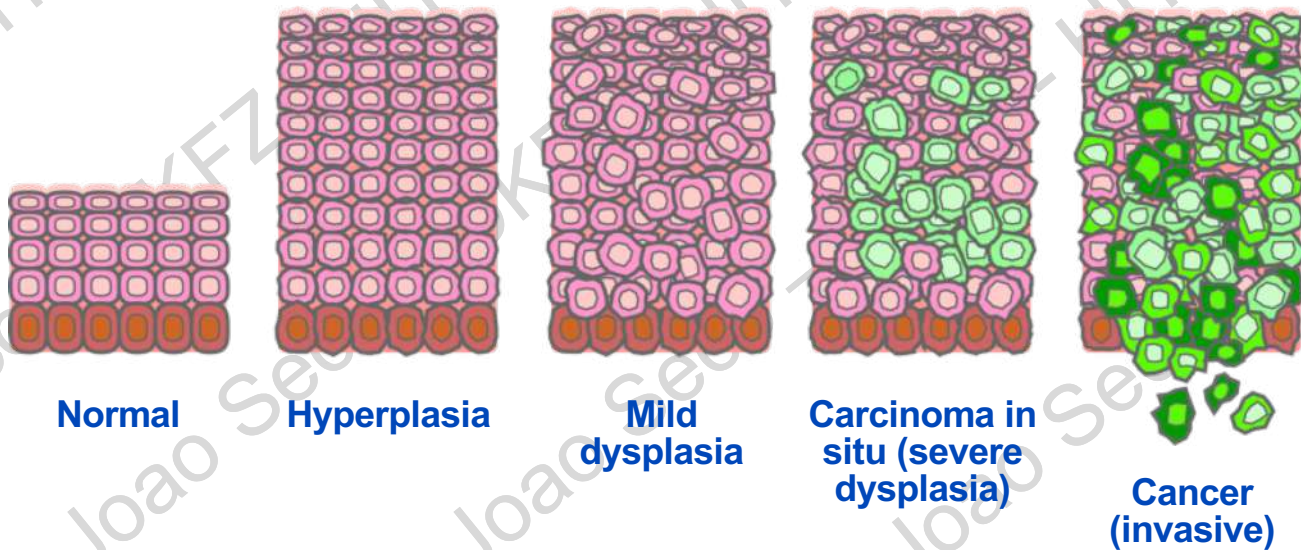


# What does a pathologist look for in biopsy tissue?

Normal	Cancer	
		Large number of irregularly shaped dividing cells
		Large, variably shaped nuclei
		Small cytoplasmic volume relative to nuclei
		Variation in cell size and shape
		Loss of normal specialized cell features
		Disorganized arrangement of cells
		Poorly defined tumor boundary

# Some more Biology...

How does Cancer look like under the microscope?

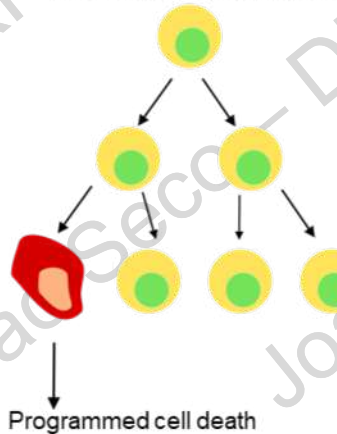


# What is Cancer ?

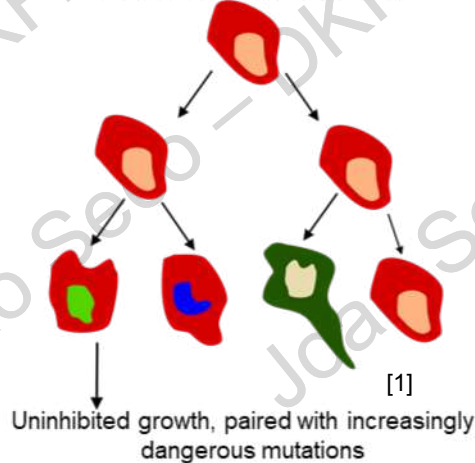
- is uncontrolled cell proliferation and cell rampant growth
- cancer may spread to other parts of the body
- over 100 different types, individual

## healthy cells vs. cancer cells

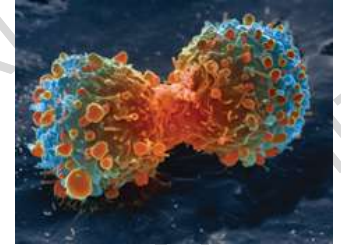
Normal cell division



Cell division in cancer



Cancer cell of a lung tumor during cell proliferation



[2]

## Theory of cancer formation:

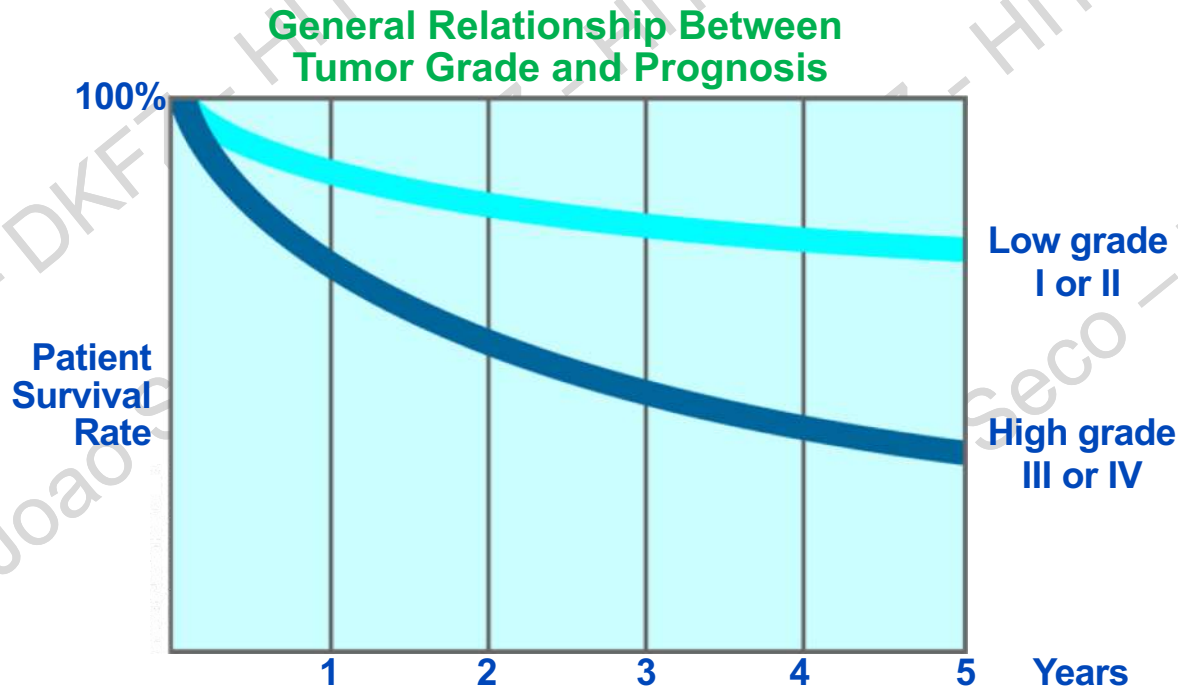
(random) mutation levers out i.a. programmed cell death

→ cells need to be removed / killed “manually” for treatment

[1] Garak76, Suhadi Jorhaa'ir ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Zellteilung\\_normal\\_im\\_Gegensatz\\_zu\\_Krebs.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Zellteilung_normal_im_Gegensatz_zu_Krebs.svg)), „Zellteilung normal im Gegensatz zu Krebs“

[2] fineartamerica - Lung Cancer Cell Division. - Accessed from <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/lung-cancer-cell-division-sem-steve-gschmeissner.html?product=metal-print> on 12.02.2021. Lettering was adapted.

# What is the relationship between tumor grade and patient survival?



# 2017 New Cancer Sites



## Estimated New Cases

Males			Females		
Prostate	161,360	19%	Breast	252,710	30%
Lung & bronchus	116,990	14%	Lung & bronchus	105,510	12%
Colon & rectum	71,420	9%	Colon & rectum	64,010	8%
Urinary bladder	60,490	7%	Uterine corpus	61,380	7%
Melanoma of the skin	52,170	6%	Thyroid	42,470	5%
Kidney & renal pelvis	40,610	5%	Melanoma of the skin	34,940	4%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	40,080	5%	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	32,160	4%
Leukemia	36,290	4%	Leukemia	25,840	3%
Oral cavity & pharynx	35,720	4%	Pancreas	25,700	3%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	29,200	3%	Kidney & renal pelvis	23,380	3%
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>836,150</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>All Sites</b>	<b>852,630</b>	<b>100%</b>





# 2017 Cancer Deaths

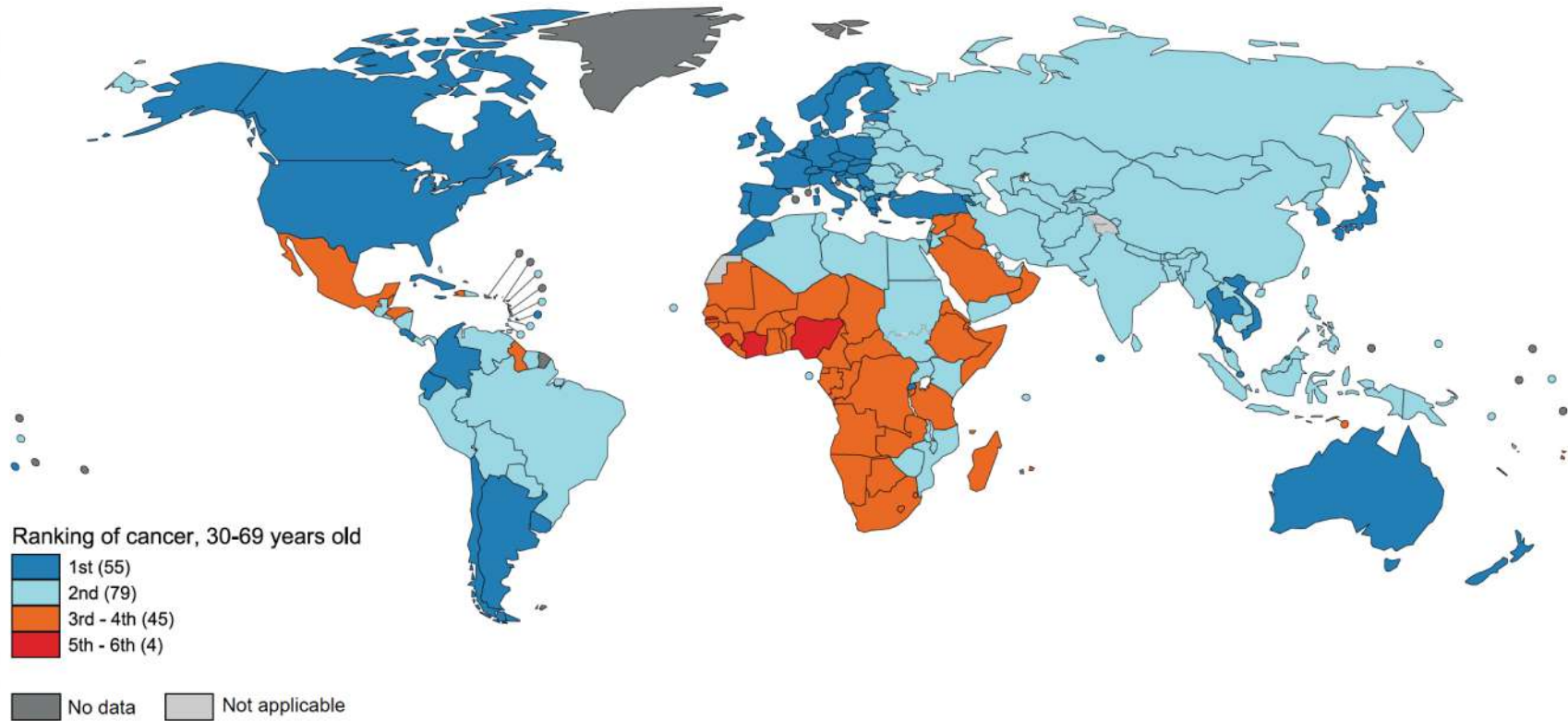
## Estimated New Cases

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## Estimated Deaths

			Males	Females			
Lung & bronchus	84,590	27%			Lung & bronchus	71,280	25%
Colon & rectum	27,150	9%			Breast	40,610	14%
Prostate	26,730	8%			Colon & rectum	23,110	8%
Pancreas	22,300	7%			Pancreas	20,790	7%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	19,610	6%			Ovary	14,080	5%
Leukemia	14,300	4%			Uterine corpus	10,920	4%
Esophagus	12,720	4%			Leukemia	10,200	4%
Urinary bladder	12,240	4%			Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	9,310	3%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	11,450	4%			Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	8,690	3%
Brain & other nervous system	9,620	3%			Brain & other nervous system	7,080	3%
All Sites	318,420	100%			All Sites	282,500	100%

# Cancer - incidence



[1] Stewart, B. W. K. P., and Christopher P. Wild. "World cancer report 2014." (2014).

[2] Global cancer statistics 2020: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries

[3] RKI, Report on cancer in Germany for 2013/2014, cancer registry data

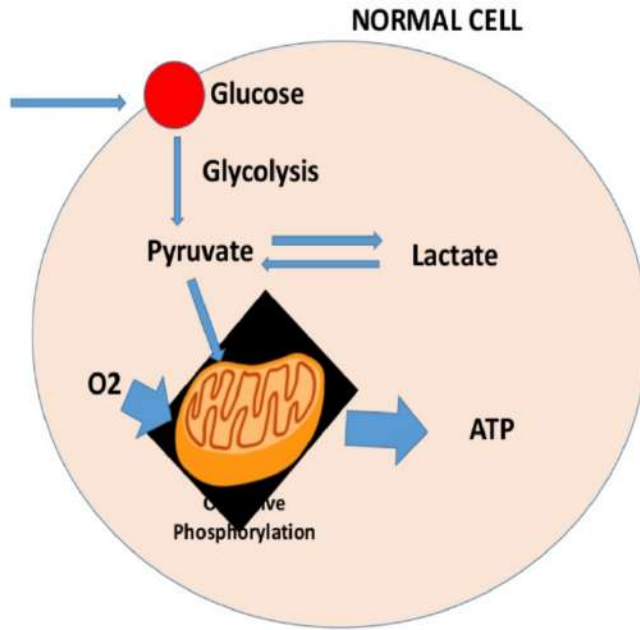
[4] RKI, Report on cancer in Germany for 2015/2016, cancer registry data

# Hallmark of Cancer

## “Warburg Effect”

# Adequate oxygen

ATP is generated  
by  
Oxidative  
Phosphorylation

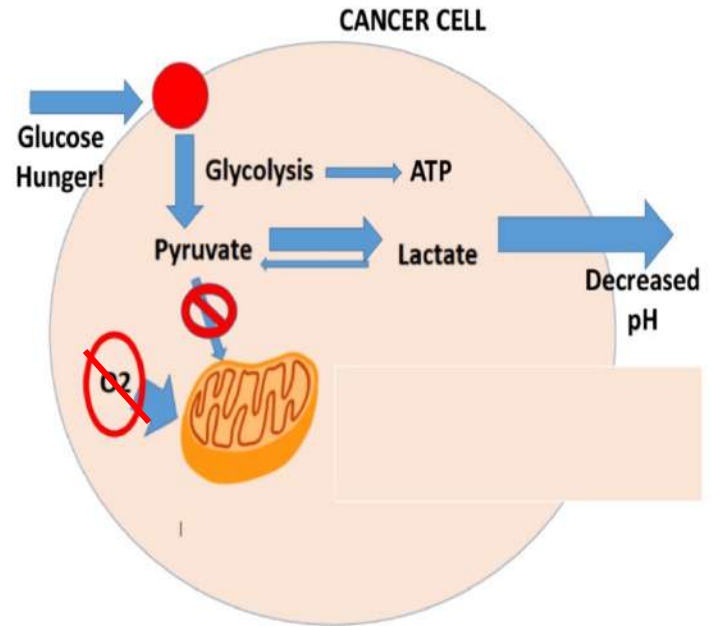


# As Oxygen Decreases

Shift from  
Oxidative  
phosphorylation  
to **Glycolysis**

**Anaerobic glycolysis**

**PASTEUR EFFECT**





**Otto Heinrich Warburg**  
German Physiologist

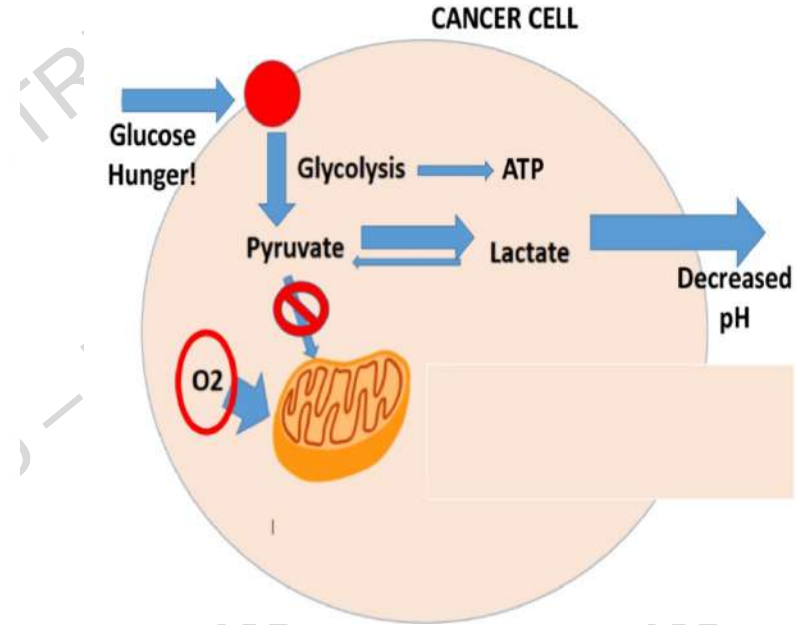
Observed that cancer cells had increased rates of glycolysis

Despite the availability of adequate oxygen levels

Aerobic glycolysis

WARBURG EFFECT

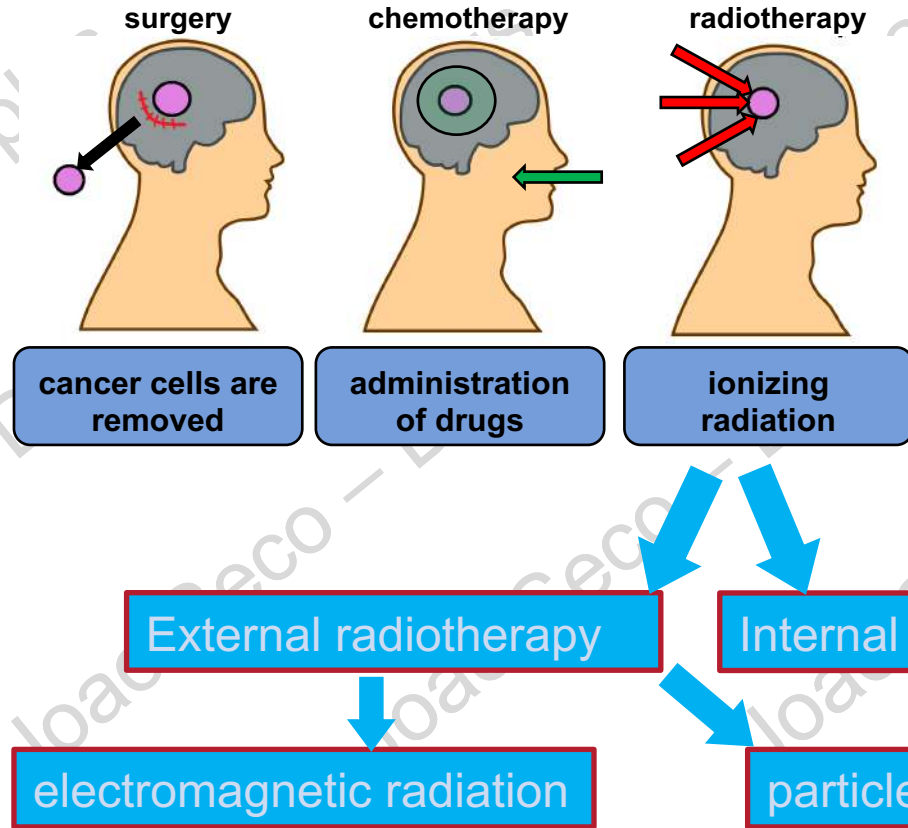
## Glycolysis with O<sub>2</sub> present



**Why** do cancer cells activate glycolysis despite the presence of oxygen?



# Treatment options



## Goal:

1. CURE leads survival
2. PALLIATIVE leads better quality of life

## Chances of survival:

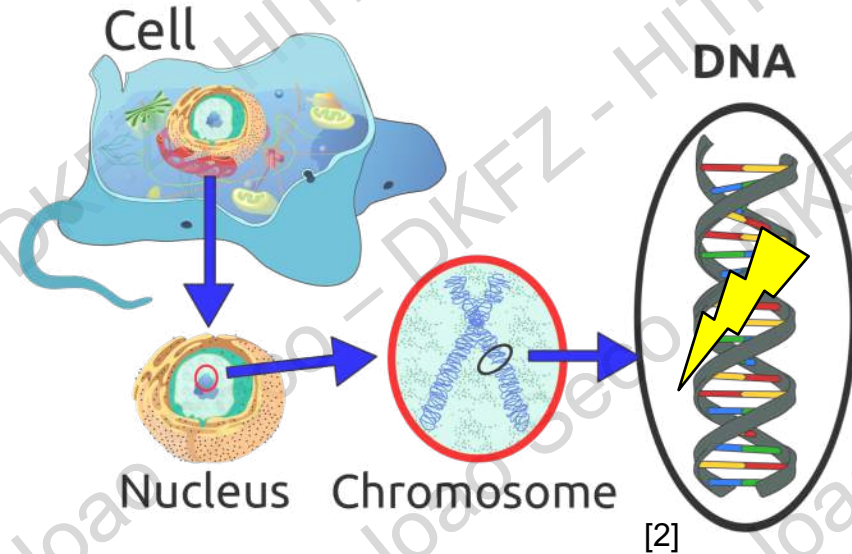
**60%** of all cancer patients survive more than **5** years [1]

- 10-year prognosis **<1%** pancreatic cancer
- 10-year prognosis **~84%** prostate cancer

[1] A joint publication of the Robert Koch Institute and the German Cancer Associations (Gesellschaft der epidemiologischen Krebsregister in Deutschland e. V.), 11<sup>th</sup> issue, 2017, accessed on 20.11.2018

# Radiotherapy - Biology

> 50% of all cancer patients receive radiotherapy [1]



**Physical phase:**  $10^{-18}$  to  $10^{-14}$  s

Elementary physical interactions between ionizing radiation and atom

**Chemical phase:** 1ms to ~ min

Reactive radicals react with molecules of the cell and change their chemical composition

**Biological phase:** after 1s to years

Cell death, loss of function of the organism

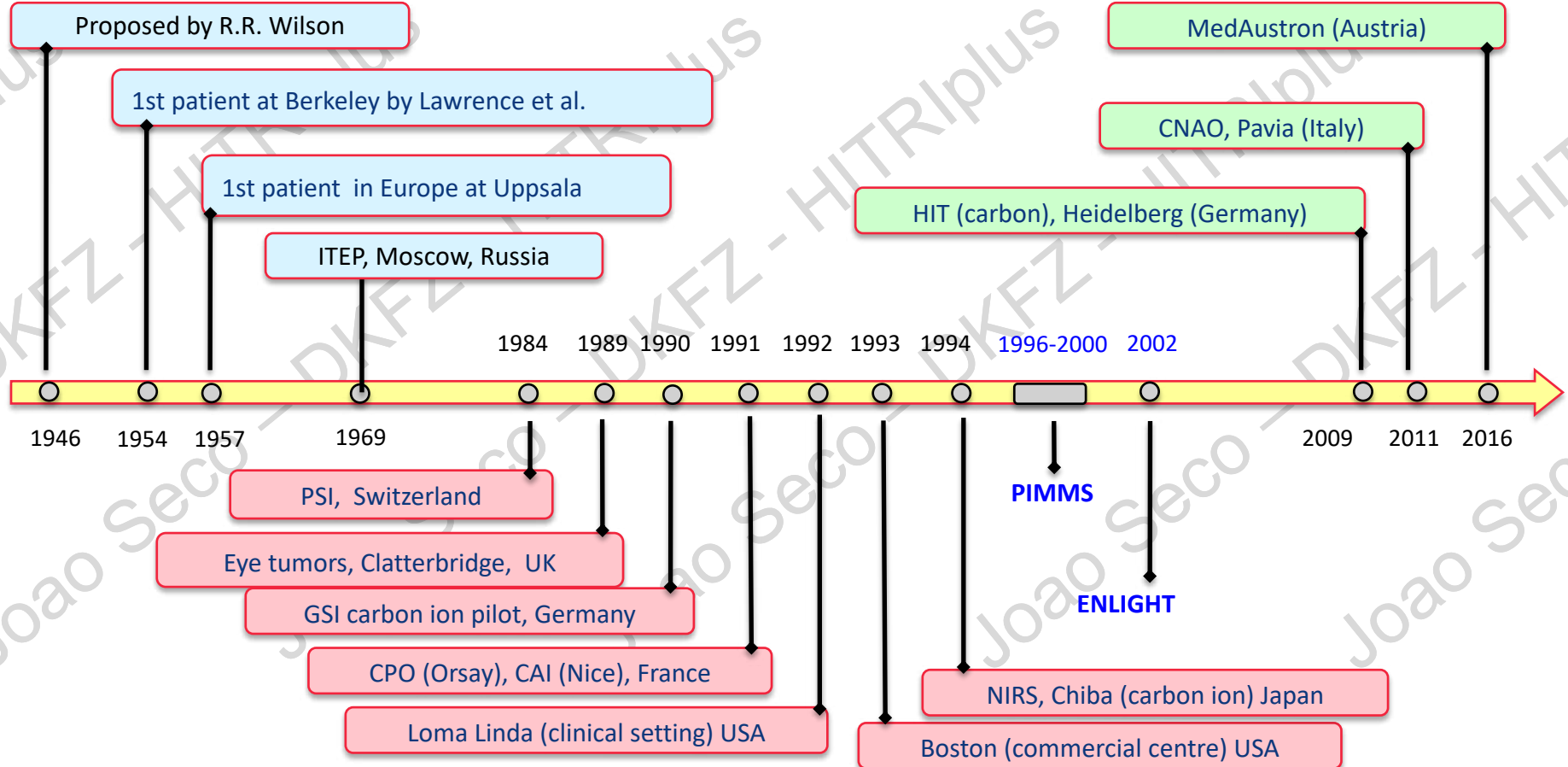
Serial organs: e.g. spinal cord

Parallel organs: e.g. lung

[1] Atun R. Jaffray et. al, Expanding global access to radiotherapy. Lancet Oncol., 2015

[2] Sponk, Tryphon, Magnus Manske, User:Dietzel65, LadyofHats (Mariana Ruiz), Radio89 ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eukaryote\\_DNA-en.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Eukaryote_DNA-en.svg)), „Eukaryote DNA-en“, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

# History of particle therapy



## Radiological Use of Fast Protons

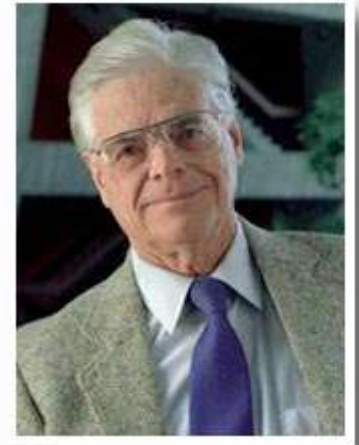
ROBERT R WILSON

Research Laboratory of Physics, Harvard University Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Accepted for publication in July 1946.

Except for electrons, the particles which have been accelerated to high energies by machines such as cyclotrons or Van de Graaff generators have not been directly used therapeutically. Rather, the neutrons, gamma rays, or artificial radioactivities produced in various reactions of the primary particles have been applied to medical problems. This has, in large part, been due to the very short penetration in tissue of protons, deuterons, and alpha particles from present accelerators.

Higher-energy machines are now under construction, however, and the ions from them will in general be energetic enough to have a range in tissue comparable to body dimensions. It must have occurred to many people that the particles themselves now become of considerable therapeutic interest. The object of this paper is to acquaint medical and biological workers with some of the physical properties and possibilities of such rays.

To be as simple as possible, let us consider only high-energy protons: later we can generalize to other particles. The accelerators now being constructed or planned will yield protons of energies above 125 MeV (million electron volts) and perhaps as high as 400 MeV. The range of a 125 MeV proton in tissue is 12 cm., while that of a 200 MeV proton is 27 cm. It is clear that such protons can penetrate to any part of the body.



Robert Wilson

- **In 1946 Harvard physicist Robert Wilson suggested:**

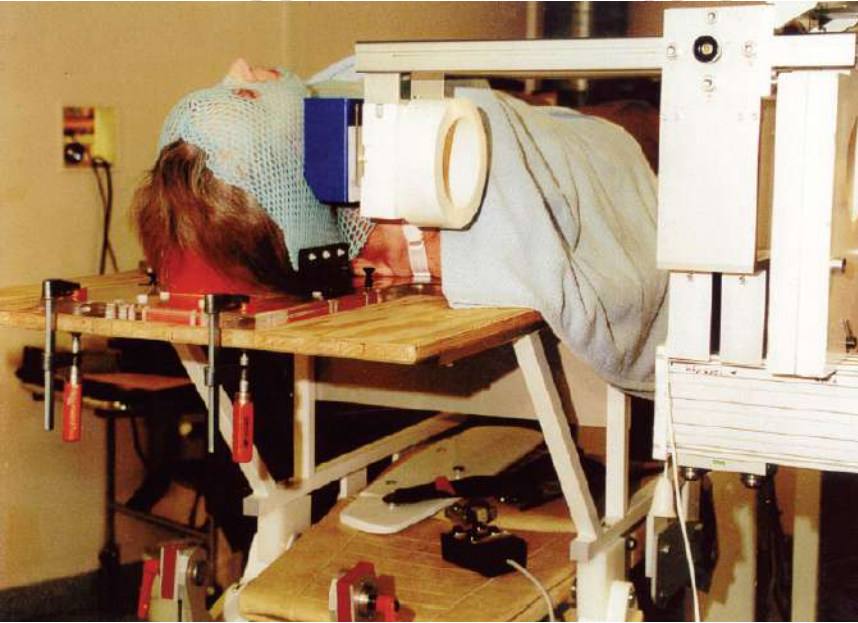
### **“The Visionary”**

- Protons can be used clinically
- Accelerators are available
- Maximum radiation dose can be placed within the tumor
- Proton therapy provides sparing of normal tissues
- Modulator wheels can spread narrow Bragg peak

# Patient Treatment

in Labs

in Hospital

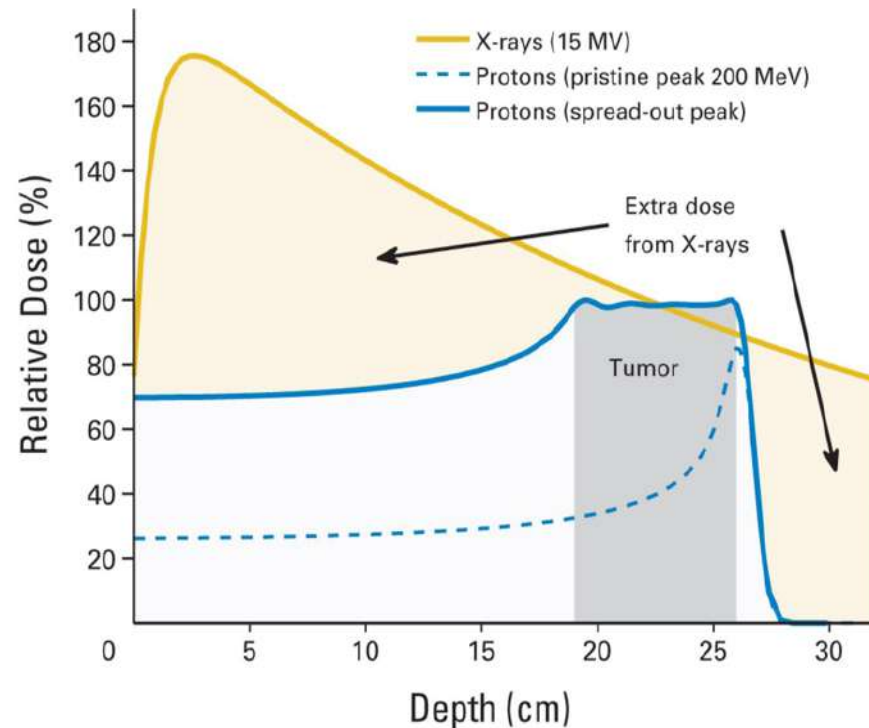




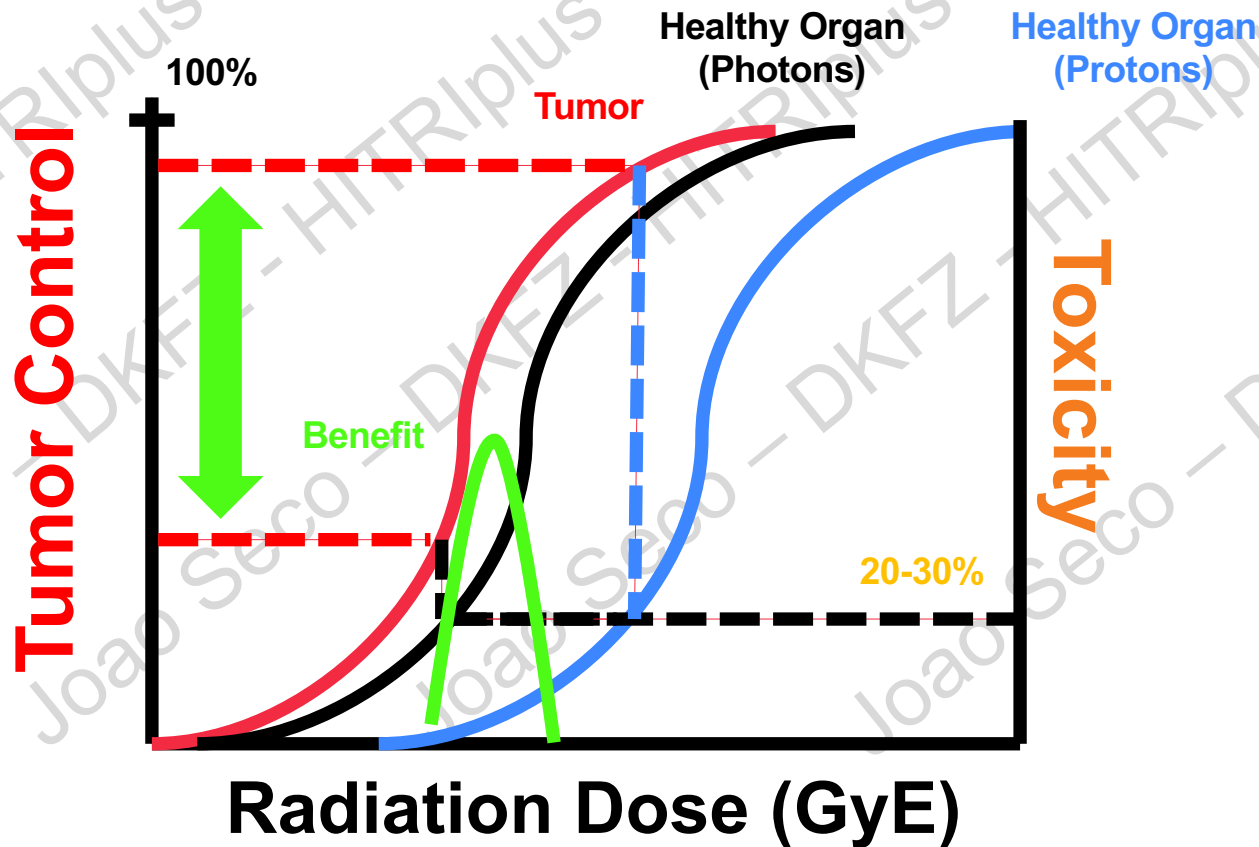
# **The Advantage of Protons Relative Photons**

# Proton Depth Dose Properties

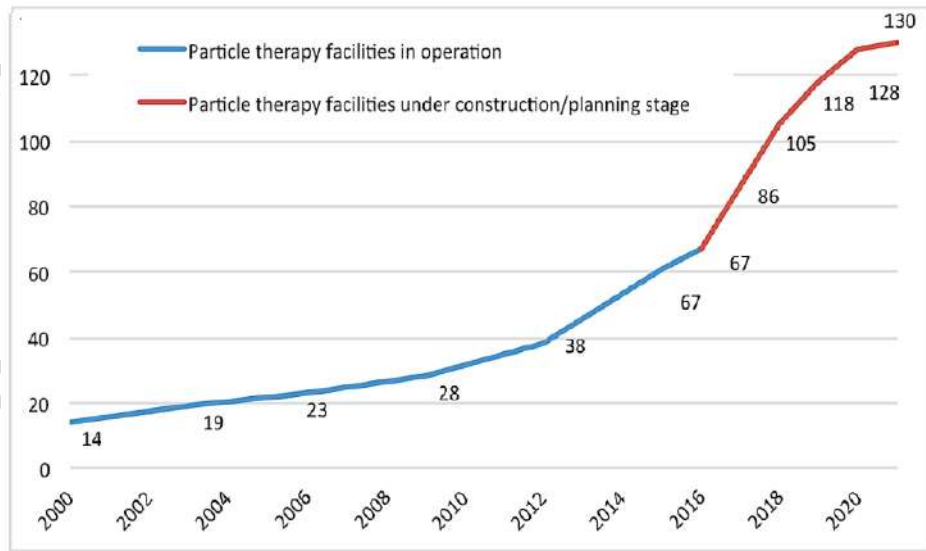
- Relatively low entrance dose (plateau)
- Maximum dose at depth (Bragg peak)
- Rapid distal dose fall-off
- Energy modulation (Spread-out Bragg peak)
- RBE 1.1 close to unity



# Quantifying the Advantage of Proton Therapy

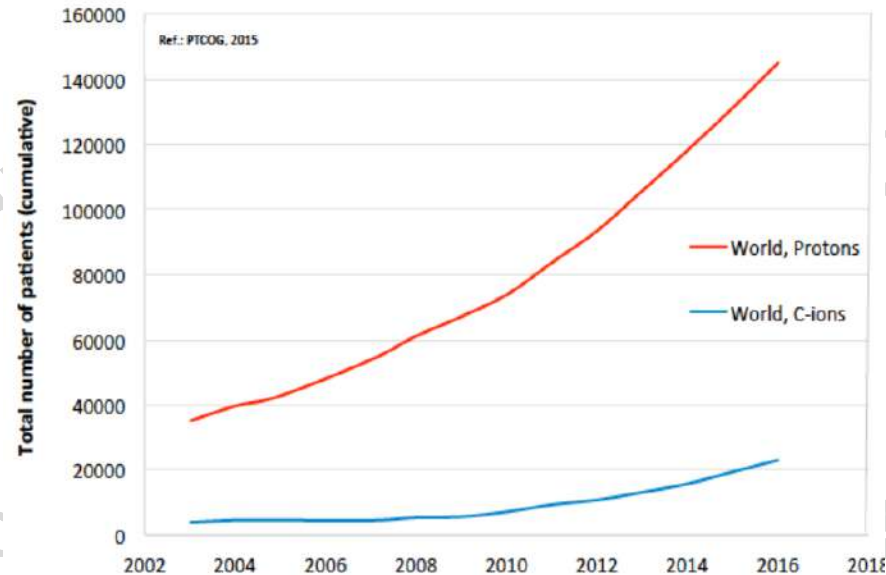


# Increase of ion therapy facilities



[1]

**Currently:** 112 facilities in operation worldwide  
 37 facilities under construction  
 29 facilities in planning stage



[2]

>200 000 patients were treated  
 <1% compared to radiotherapy  
 with photons

[1] PTCOG – Facilities in Operation. Accessed from <https://www.ptcog.ch/index.php/facilities-in-operation>

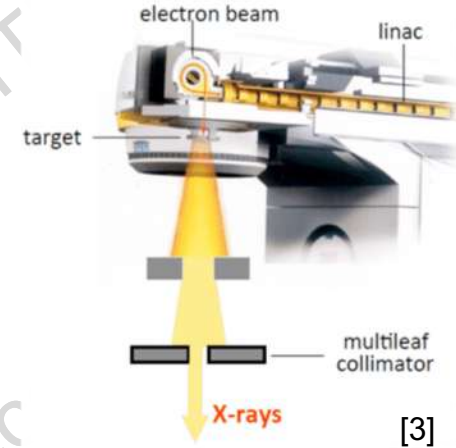
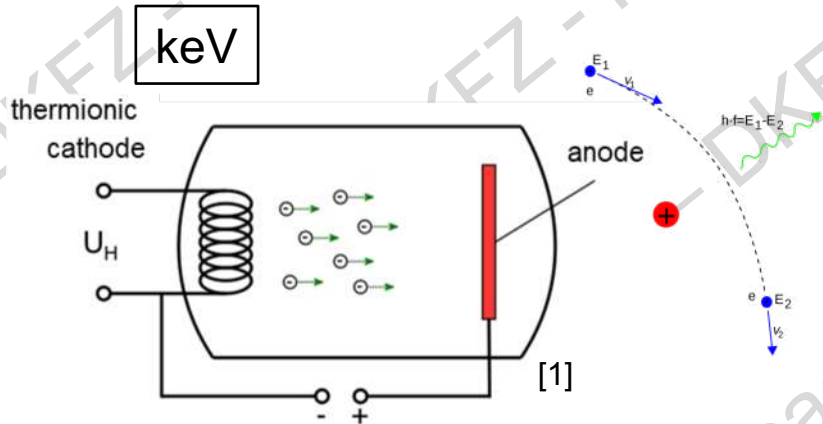
[2] PTCOG – Patient statistics. Accessed from <https://www.ptcog.ch/index.php/patient-statistics>

# **Generation of Photons or Particle Beams**

# Generation of high-energy photons

- photons are massless, have no electric charge and travel always at the speed of light
- No “acceleration, but frequency dependent energy”

But: We can accelerate electrons!



tungsten target  
→ bremsstrahlung

→ electrons loose energy due to bremsstrahlung → **high-energy photons**

[1] Physikunterricht-Online.de – Elektronen im elektrischen Feld. Accessed from <https://physikunterricht-online.de/jahrgang-11/elektronen-im-elektrischen-feld/> on 12.02.2021, lettering was adapted

[2] Mouzi (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Linac.jpg>), „Linac“, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

[3] ResearchGate – Figure – The linac (a), the magnets that deflect the electron beam by 270°.

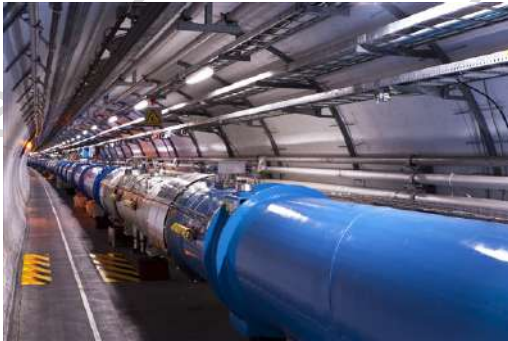
Accessed from [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-linac-a-the-magnets-that-deflect-the-electron-beam-by-270-the-target-and-the\\_fig3\\_335972529](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-linac-a-the-magnets-that-deflect-the-electron-beam-by-270-the-target-and-the_fig3_335972529) on 12.02.2021



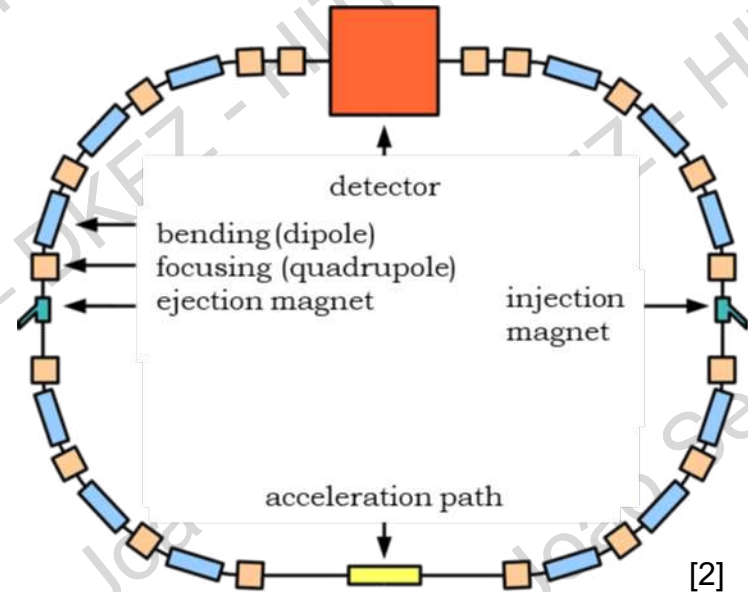
# Particle accelerator

How do we generate high energy protons or ions?

- acceleration due to electric fields
- linear or circular accelerator  
(depending on the required energy)
- e.g. Large Hadron Collider LHC (CERN)



[1]



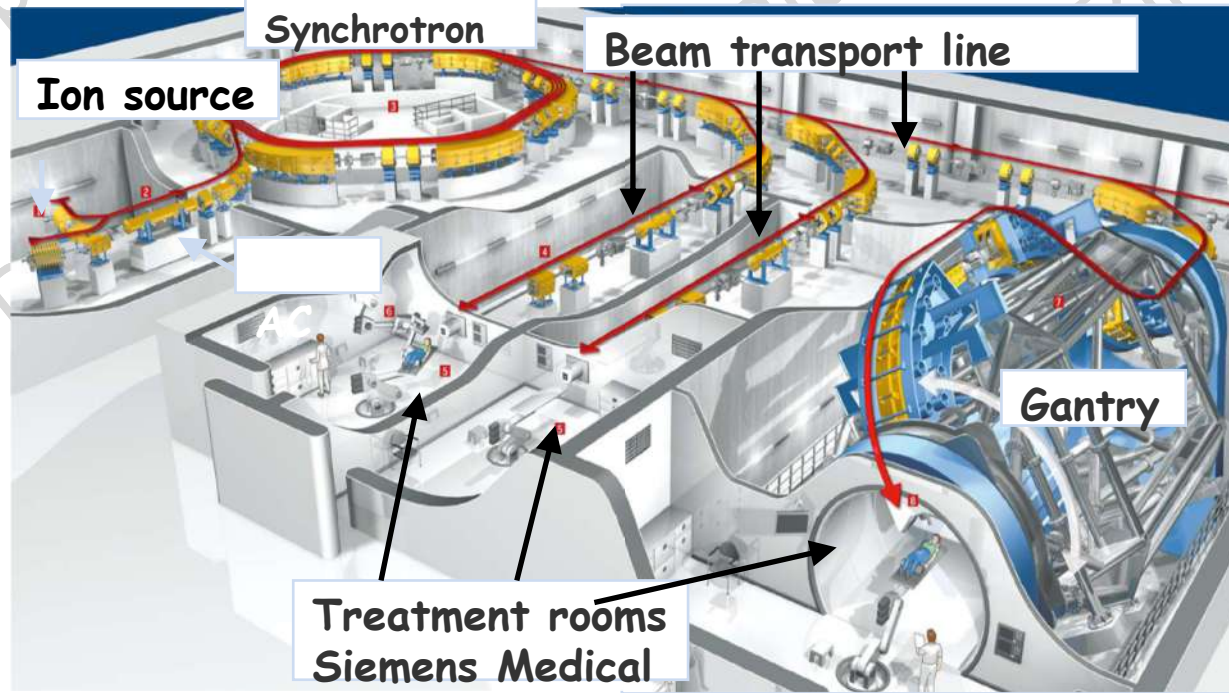
[2]

[1] Maximilien Brice ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CERN\\_LHC.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CERN_LHC.jpg)), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>

[2] No machine-readable author provided. Florian DO assumed (based on copyright claims). ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Storage\\_ring\\_de.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Storage_ring_de.svg)), „Storage ring de“, lettering was adapted, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/legalcode>

# Large accelerators are necessary

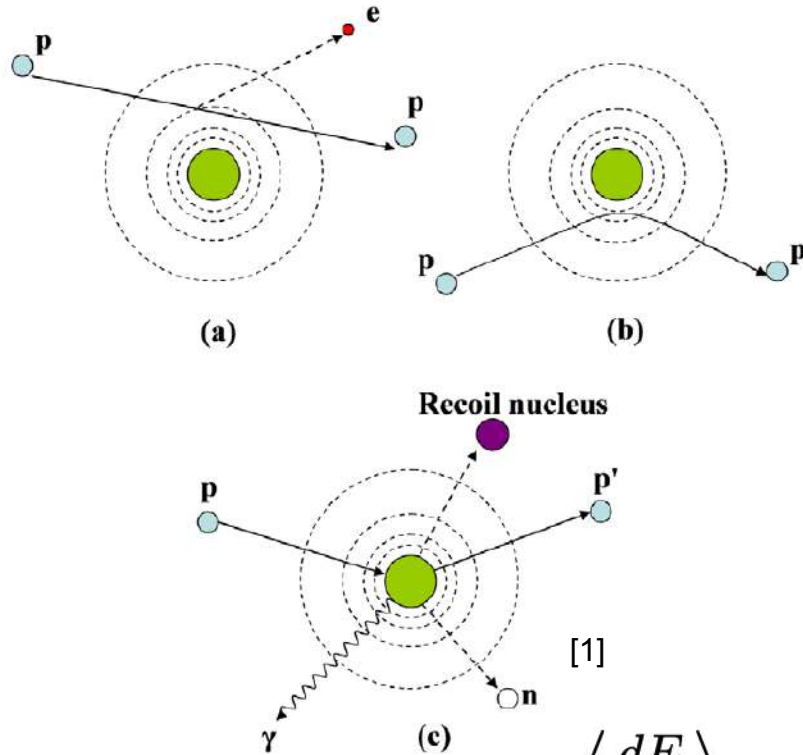
- Heidelberg Ion-Beam Therapy Center (HIT)



- First carbon facility with a gantry
- First patient treatment in 2009

[1]

# Particle dose (protons/ions)



(a) Coulomb scattering: proton kicks electron → energy loss

(b) deflection in the electrical field

(a) proton hits nucleus and is absorbed → secondary particles are created

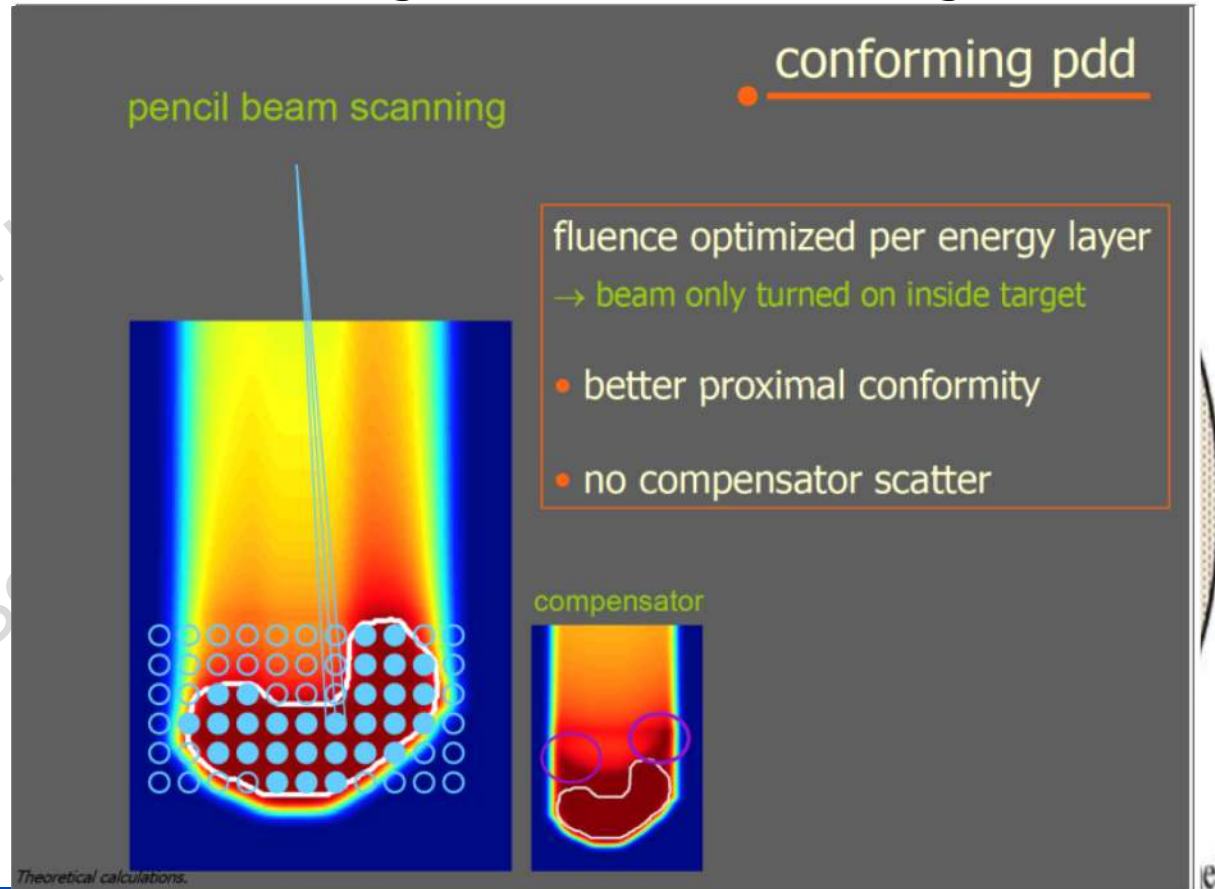
- loss of energy mainly due to (a)
- described by Bethe-Bloch formula

$$-\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle = \frac{4\pi}{m_e c^2} \cdot \frac{n z^2}{\beta^2} \cdot \left( \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \cdot \left[ \ln \left( \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{I \cdot (1 - \beta^2)} \right) - \beta^2 \right]$$

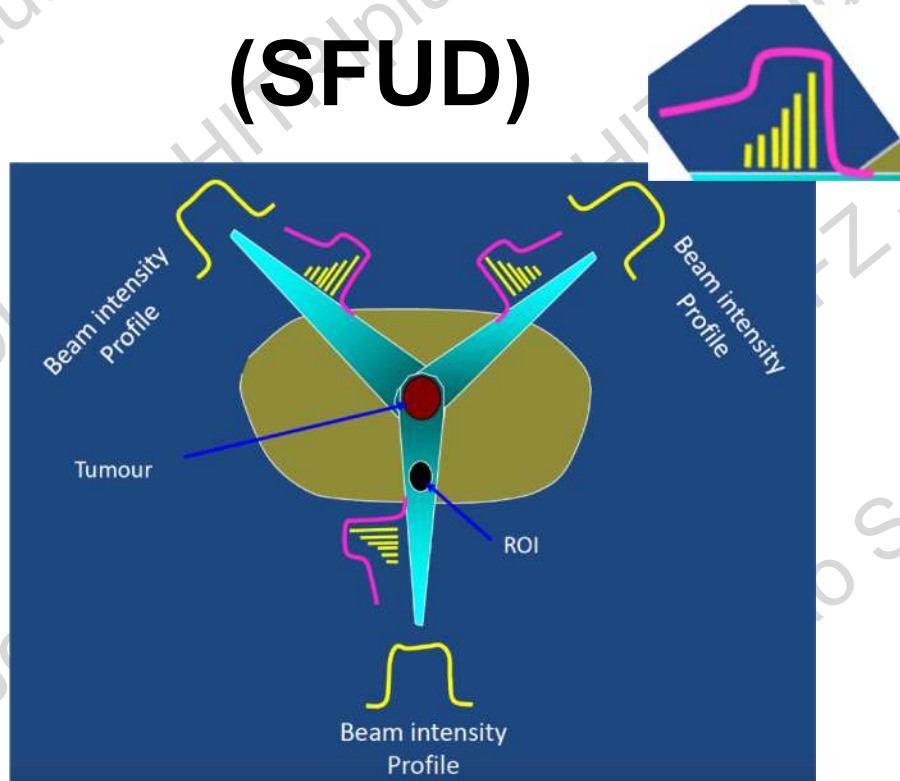
# **Delivery Methods**

## **Passive versus Pencil Beam Scanning**

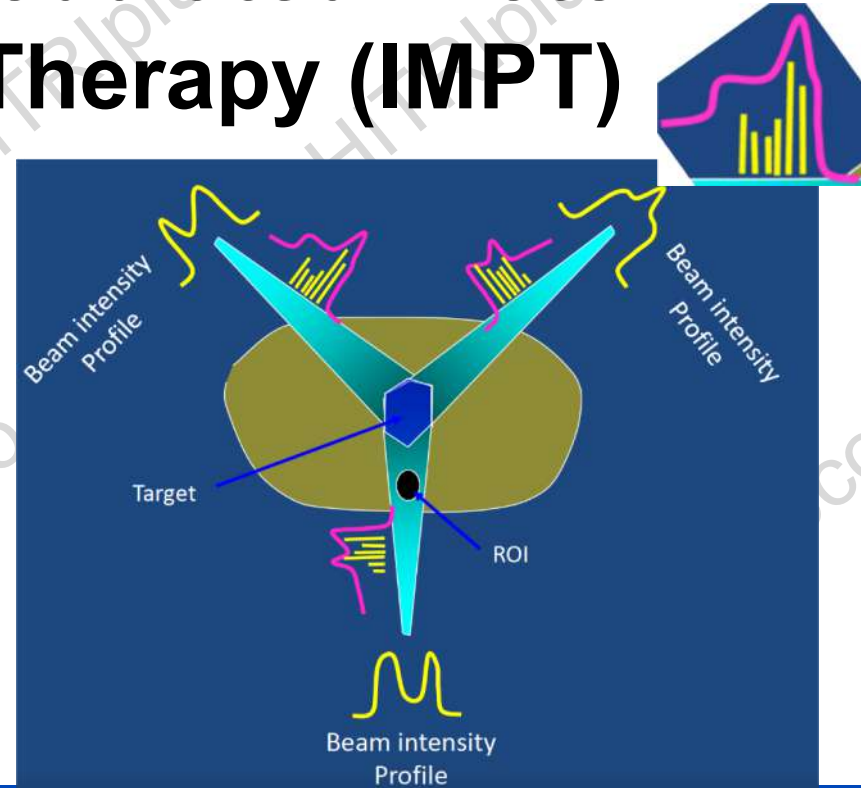
## Passive Scattering and Pencil Beam Scanning (PBS)



# Single Field Uniform Dose (SFUD)



# Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy (IMPT)

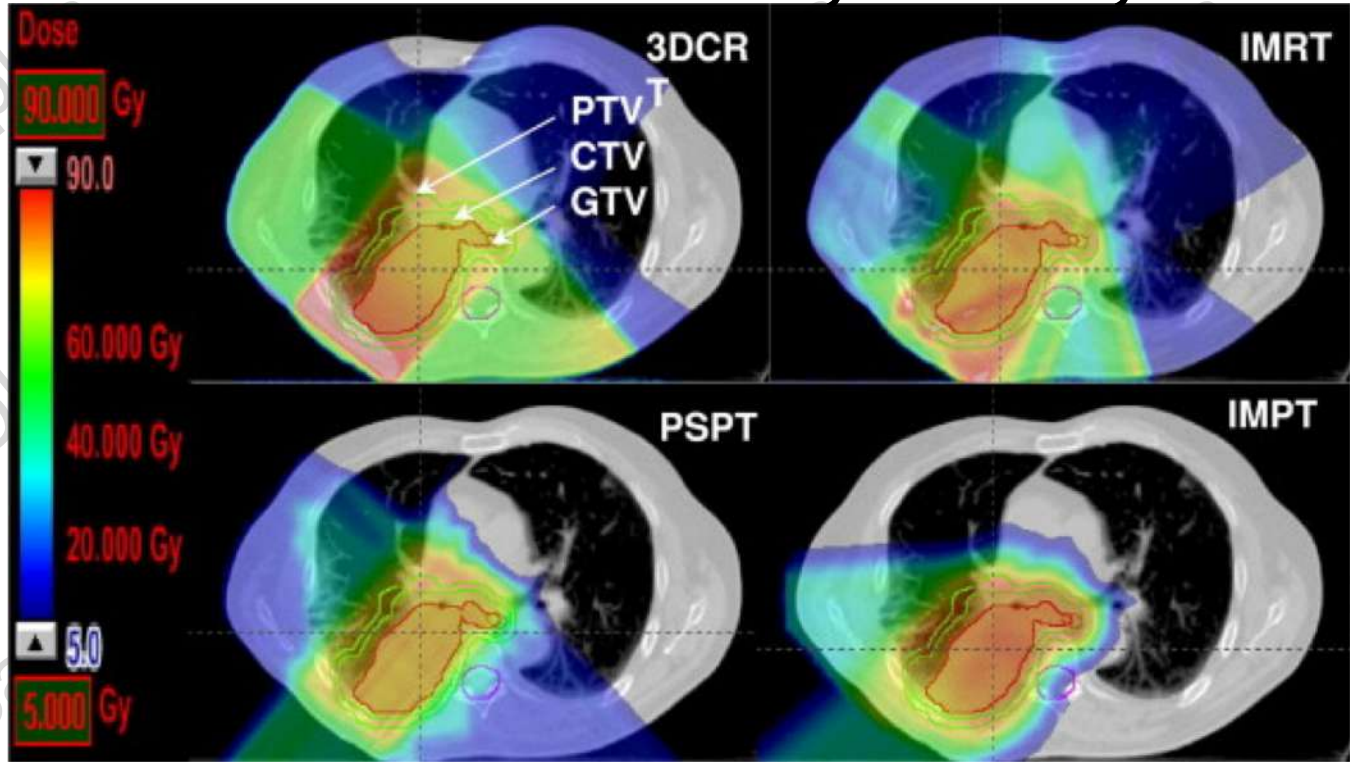




# Potential of IMPT vs 3DCR, IMRT, PSPT

Photons

Protons

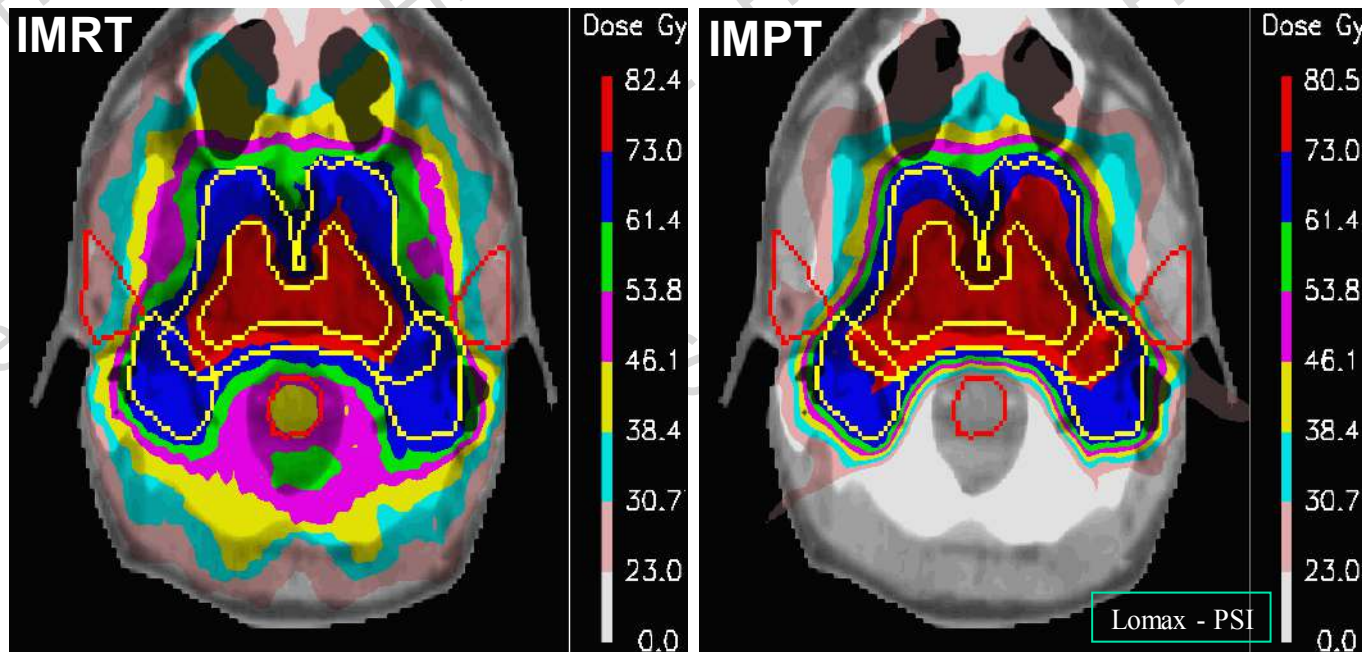


Courtesy of Radhe Mohan

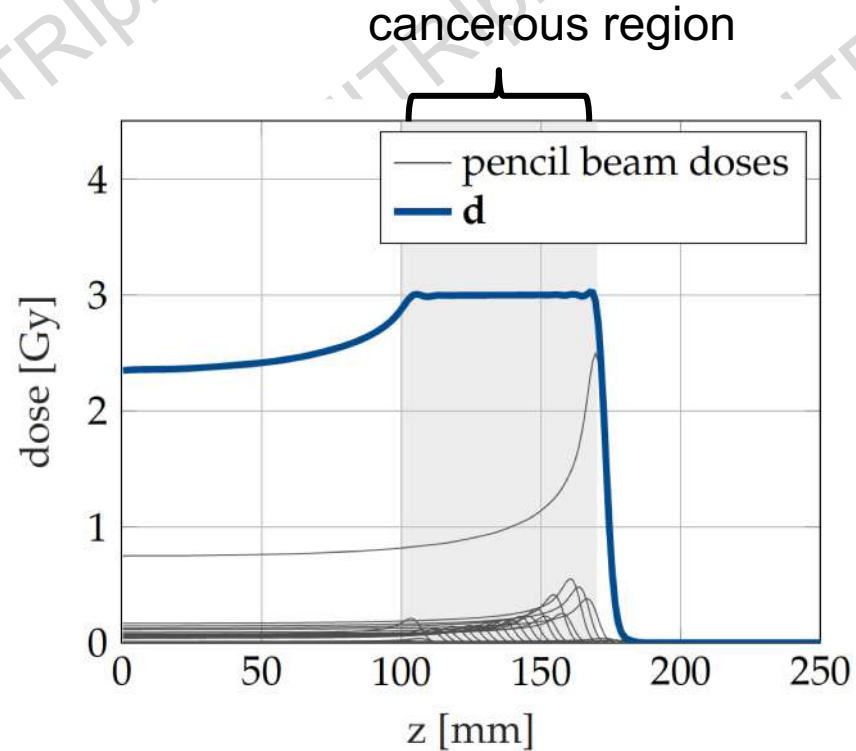
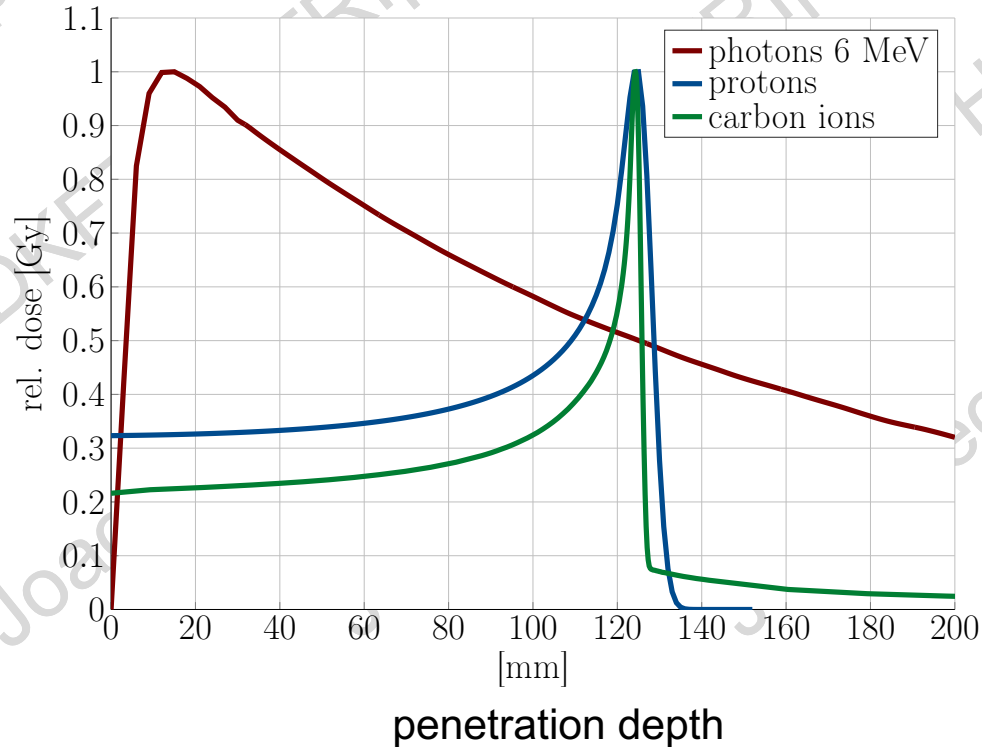
# Proton Therapy Derives its Potential to Improve Clinical Outcomes from the Physical Properties of Protons

→ “Compact” dose distributions

## Nasopharynx Treatment Plans



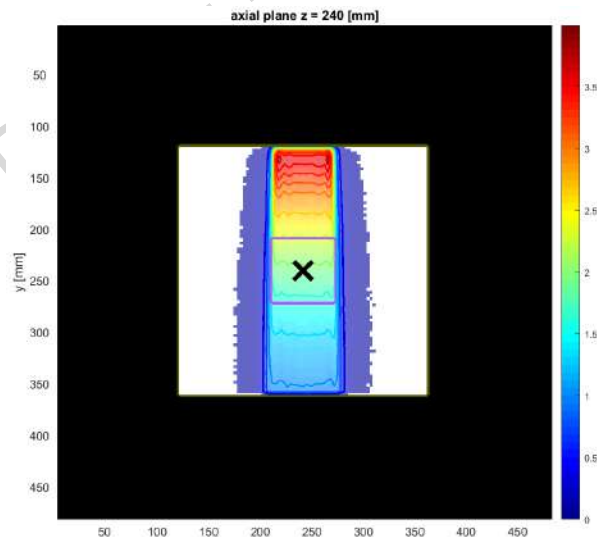
# Why bother with particle therapy?



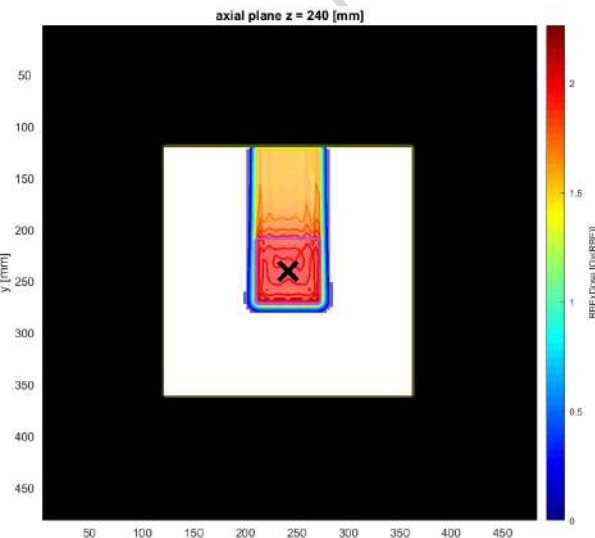
# Why bother with particle therapy?

- We always risk damaging healthy tissue “on the way”...

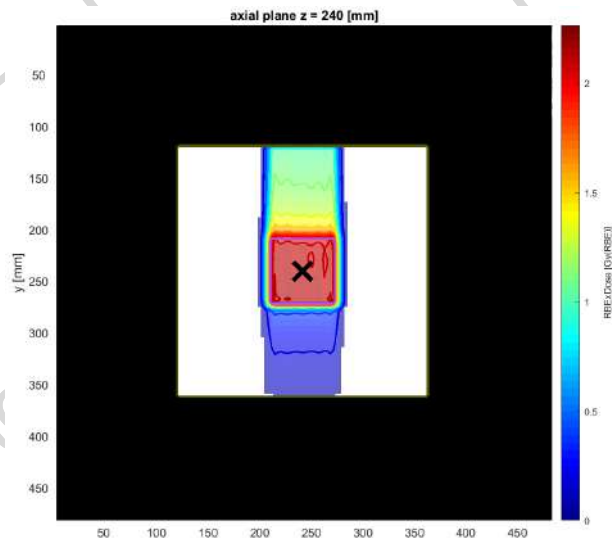
photons



protons



carbon ions



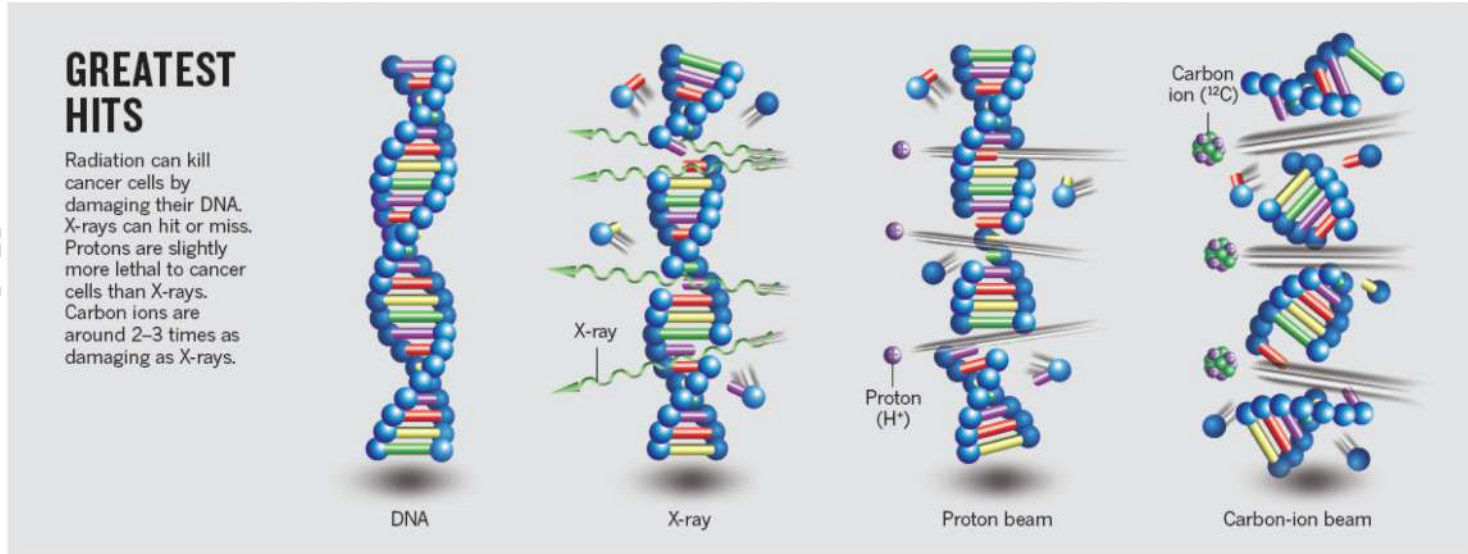
.... but it looks quite good for a particle beam ☺

# Why bother with carbon ions?

photons

protons

carbon ions



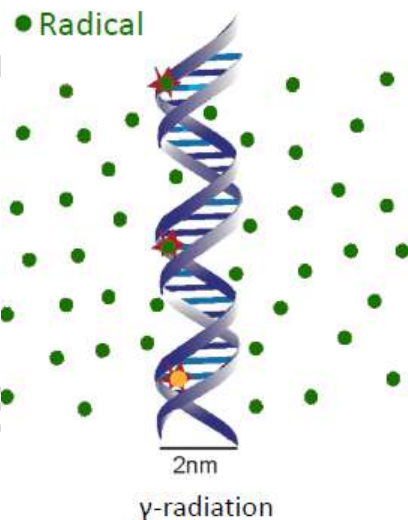
- Energy release is **localized** to a varying extent.  $^{12}\text{C}$  is 12 times heavier than  $\text{p}^+$
- Heavy ions generate locally more severe damage → more difficult to repair

[1] Marx, V. (2014, April 4). Sharp shooters. 508. Nature, p. 137.



## ■ DIRECT AND INDIRECT ACTION

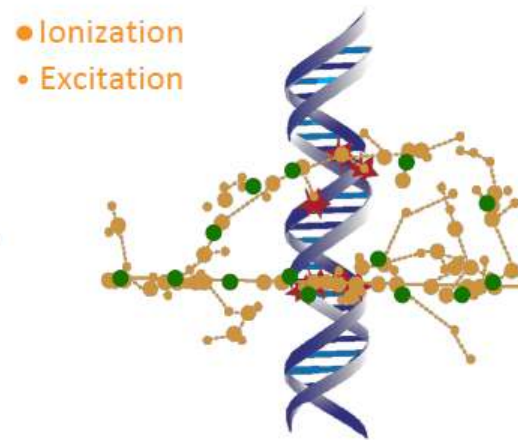
The biologic effects of radiation result principally from damage to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which is the critical target, as described



Low and homogeneous ionization density / radical production  
→ Random distribution of indirect damage  
→ Easier to repair by cell!



Low LET radiation



High LET radiation

High and localized ionization density / (radical production)  
→ Clustered/Complex DNA Damage  
→ Very difficult to repair by cell! <sup>35</sup>



# **FLASH Irradiation** **Protects Organs**

# FLASH Studies

Studies	1960s-70s		2010s-20s	
In-Vitro (2D Assay)	Town 1967 Berry 1969 Prempree 1969 Berry 1972 Weiss 1974 Purrott 1977	HeLa Cells HeLa and CHL Cells Human Lymphocytes HeLa and Murine Leuk. E.Coli B Cells Human Lymphocytes	Adrian 2019 Buonanno 2019	DU145 (Prostate) IMR90 (Normal Lung Fibroblasts)

# FLASH Studies

Studies	1960s-70s		2010s-20s	
<b>In-Vitro</b> <b>(2D Assay)</b>	Town 1967 Berry 1969 Prempree 1969 Berry 1972 Weiss 1974 Purrott 1977	HeLa Cells HeLa and CHL Cells Human Lymphocytes HeLa and Murine Leuk. E.Coli B Cells Human Lymphocytes	Adrian 2019 Buonanno 2019	DU145 (Prostate) IMR90 (Normal Lung Fibroblasts)
<b>In-Vivo</b> <b>(Animal)</b>	Hornsey 1966 Hornsey 1971	Mice/Whole Body (LD50/4) Mice/Whole Body (LD50/4)	Favaudon 2014 Zlobinskaya 2014 Montay-Gruel 2017 Beyreuther 2018 Vozenin 2018 Bourhis 2019 Montay-Gruel 2019 Pawelke 2021	Mice/Lung and HBCx-12A/Hep-2 Mice/FaDu Tumor Xenograft Mice/Brain Zebrafish Embryos Mini-Pig and Cat/Skin Human/Skin-Lymphoma Mice/Brain Zebrafish Embryos

# FLASH Studies

Studies	1960s-70s		2010s-20s	
<b>In-Vitro (2D Assay)</b>	Town 1967 Berry 1969 Prempre 1969 Berry 1972 Weiss 1974 Purrott 1977	HeLa Cells HeLa and CHL Cells Human Lymphocytes HeLa and Murine Leuk. E.Coli B Cells Human Lymphocytes	Adrian 2019 Buonanno 2019	DU145 (Prostate) IMR90 (Normal Lung Fibroblasts)
<b>In-Vivo (Animal)</b>	Hornsey 1966 Hornsey 1971	Mice/Whole Body (LD50/4) Mice/Whole Body (LD50/4)	Favaudon 2014 Zlobinskaya 2014 Montay-Gruel 2017 Beyreuther 2018 Vozenin 2018 Bourhis 2019 Montay-Gruel 2019 Pawelke 2021	Mice/Lung and HBCx-12A/Hep-2 Mice/FaDu Tumor Xenograft Mice/Brain Zebrafish Embryos Mini-Pig and Cat/Skin Human/Skin-Lymphoma Mice/Brain Zebrafish Embryos
<b>Models OR Simulations</b>	Town 1967 Berry 1969 Weiss 1972 Weiss 1974 Ling 1975	Experiment/Model Experiment/Model Experiment/Model Experiment/Model Model	Pratx 2019 Spitz 2019 Labarbe 2019 Abolfath 2020 Petersson 2020	Model Model Model Model Model (based on Adrian 2019)

# Models Proposed to Explain FLASH

FLASH MODEL	1960s-70s	2010s-20s
<b>Oxygen Depletion</b>	Town 1967 Weiss 1974 Ling 1975 Purrott 1977	Favaudon 2014 Zlobinskaya 2014 Montay-Gruel 2017 Beyreuther 2018 Vozenin 2018 Adrian 2019 Buonanno 2019 Bourhis 2019 Montay-Gruel 2019 Petersson 2020 Pratx 2019 Pawelke 2021

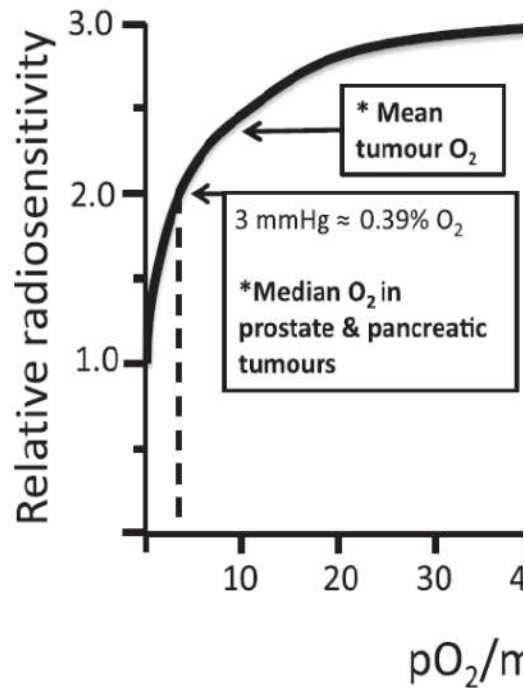
# **FLASH Radiation**

## **In-Vitro Studies**



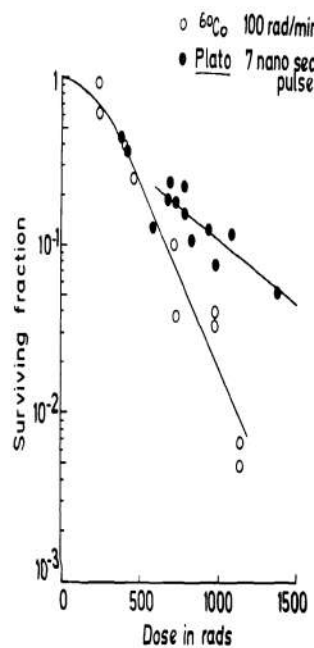
# FLASH Irradiation of Cancer Cells 1960s-70s

## Oxygen Enhancement Ratio (OER)



## Radiation Clonogenic Assay: Survival Fraction vs Dose

HAMSTER CELLS Expt. 330



HE LA CELLS Expt. 260

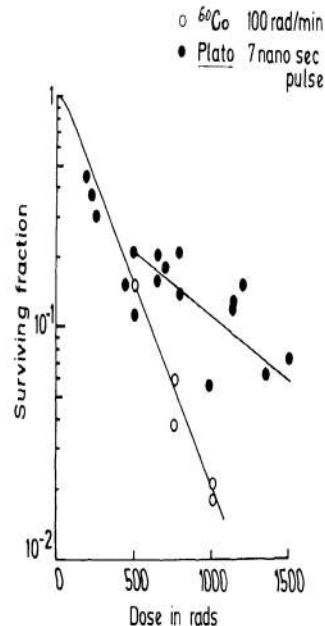


FIG. 2.

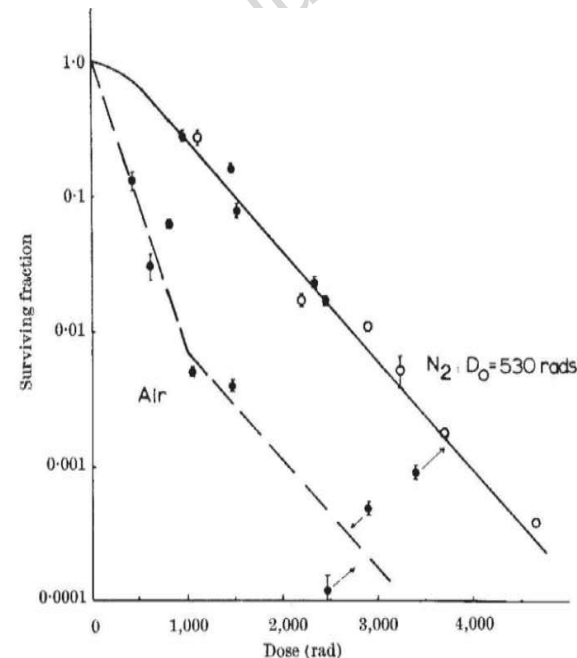


Fig. 2. HeLa cell survival curves under gas equilibration by bubbling air or nitrogen through the suspensions. The initial slope of the broken line is that of Fig. 1, and the second portion was drawn parallel to the nitrogen line. ●, One pulse; ○, two pulses.

McKeown, Br J Radiol 2014; 87: 20130676

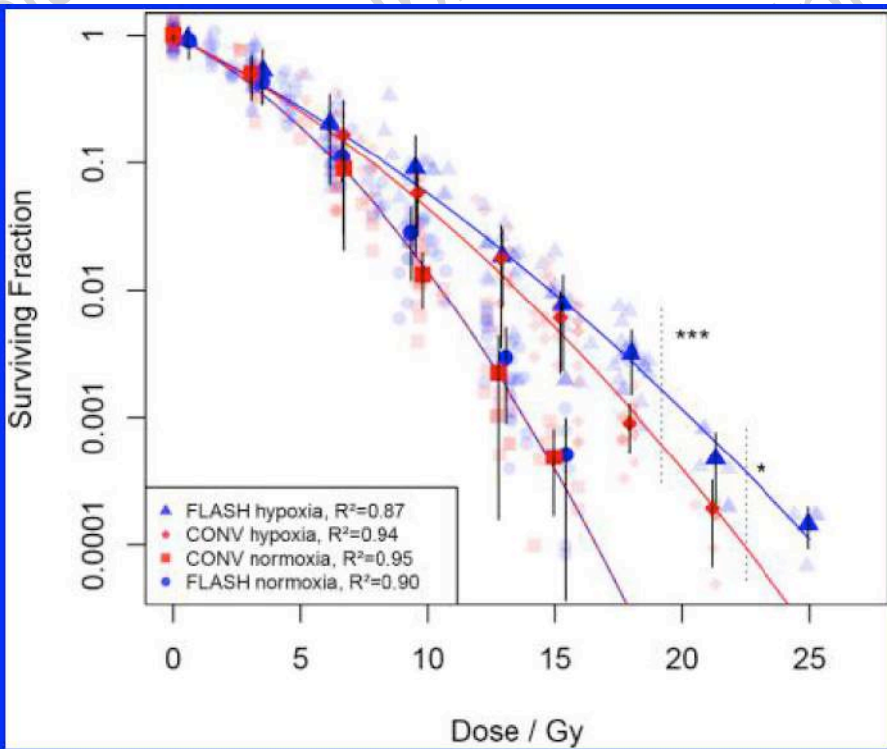
Berry et al, Br J Radiol 1969; 42 102-104

Town et al, Nature 215 1967 847-848

# FLASH Irradiation of Cancer Cells **2010s-20s**

## Radiation Clonogenic Assay: Survival Fraction vs Dose

**2019** Prostate DU145



**1967** Cervical HeLa

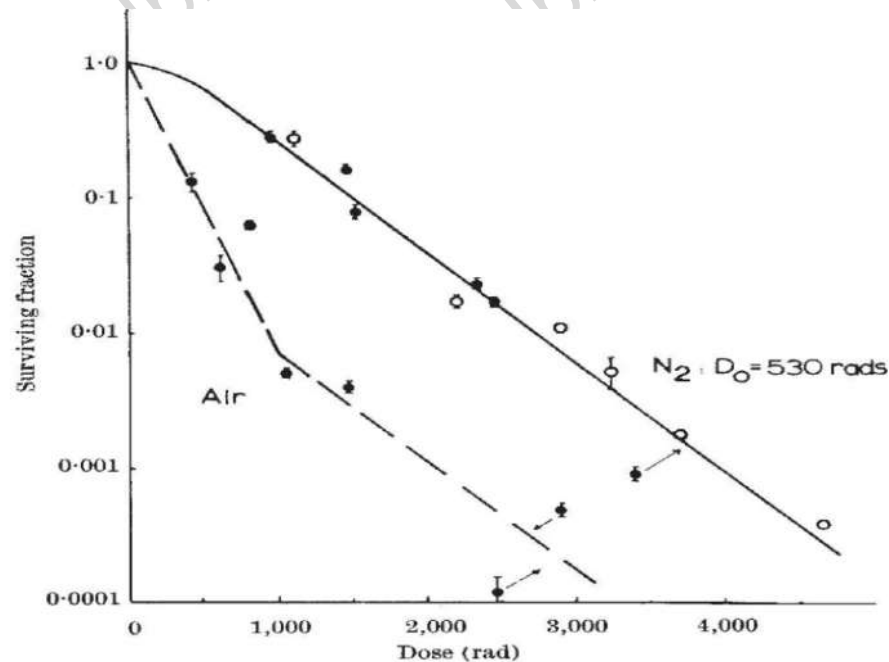


Fig. 2. HeLa cell survival curves under gas equilibration by bubbling air or nitrogen through the suspensions. The initial slope of the broken line is that of Fig. 1, and the second portion was drawn parallel to the nitrogen line. ●, One pulse; ○, two pulses.

Adrian, Br J Radiol 2019; 93: 20190702

Town et al, Nature 215 1967 847-848

# FLASH Irradiation of Cancer Cells **1960s-70s**

- Dose-rates higher than  $\sim 10^7$  Gy/s and 5 – 10 Gy deplete cellular oxygen
- Some data suggesting changes at lower dose-rates ( $10^2$  Gy/s for *in vivo* studies (FLASH Radiotherapy Normal tissue sparing))
- No data for high LET radiations

**Minimum Dose**  
**5-12 Gy**

**FLASH Rate**  
 **$10^7$  Gy/s**

Authors (dates)	Experimental system	Oxygen depletion, dose, etc.	Radiation type	Dose rate	Pulse duration
Town et al (1967) [2]	HeLa S-3 cells	Above 9 Gy exposure effect lost for second pulse $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ s later	15 MeV electrons	$3.5 \times 10^7$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	1.3 $\mu$ s
Prempee et al (1969) [3]	Human lymphocyte chromosomal aberrations	Reduction in yield described	X-rays	$4.8 \times 10^8$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	n/a
Nias et al (1969) [4]	HeLa	7 Gy	14 MeV electron	$< 1.8 \times 10^7$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	1 $\mu$ s
Berry et al (1969) [5]	HeLa S-3 and CHL-F	5–10 Gy for short pulses	3 MV X-rays up; 3.7 MV X-rays	$10^9$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup> up to $10^{10}$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	7 ns pulse, 50 ns pulse
Berry et al (1972) [6]	2 HeLa lines and mouse leukemia	5–10 Gy; partly hypoxic cells develop radiological hypoxia above 5 Gy	400 KeV electrons at dose rate	$10^9$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	3 ns
Purrot et al (1977) [7]	Chromosomal aberrations in human lymphocytes	No increase in yield	1 MeV electrons	$5 \times 10^6$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	1 $\mu$ s
Ling et al (1978) [8]	CHO cells	12 Gy depletion dose; oxygen diffusion to single cells significant after $3 \times 10^{-3}$ s	electrons	$10^9$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	3 ns
Watts et al (1978) [9]	Cultured V-79 cells	Oxygen diffusion to single cells significant after $1-2 \times 10^{-3}$ s	400 keV electrons	$10^9$ Gy s <sup>-1</sup>	n/a

CHO, Chinese hamster ovary; n/a, not available

**Wilson et al 2012, BJR, 85, e933-39**

# FLASH: Reduces Normal Tissue Toxicity (2014)

- **4.5 MeV electron** or  $\gamma$ -ray irradiated thorax of C57/B6 mice
- The two radiation qualities had similar effectiveness in lung fibrogenesis when delivered at the same **conventional dose rate of 1.8 Gy min<sup>-1</sup>**.

Favaudon et al., Sci Trans Med 2014; Commentary in Durante et al., BJR 2018

# Building Evidence for FLASH

Clinical Oncology 31 (2019) 407–415



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Clinical Oncology

journal homepage: [www.clinicaloncologyonline.net](http://www.clinicaloncologyonline.net)



## Overview

### Biological Benefits of Ultra-high Dose Rate FLASH Radiotherapy: Sleeping Beauty Awoken



M.-C. Vozenin<sup>\*†</sup>, J.H. Hendry<sup>‡</sup>, C.L. Limoli<sup>§</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Laboratory of Radiation Oncology/CHUV, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>†</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology/Department of Oncology/CHUV, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Medical Physics and Engineering, Christie Hospital, Manchester, UK

<sup>§</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California, Irvine, California, USA

Received 27 February 2019; received in revised form 8 March 2019; accepted 12 March 2019

**Table 1**

In vivo studies of FLASH response for various normal tissues

Dose (Gy) at conventional dose rates	FLASH dose rate (Gy/s)	Dose modifying factor	System	Anaesthetic	Assay	Reference
Normal tissues						
11.9	17–83	1.3	Mouse intestine	Nembutal	LD50/5	[3]
14.7	70–210	1.3–1.24	Mouse intestine	?	LD50/5	[14]
24	56–83	1.4	Mouse foot skin	Sodium amytal	Early and late reactions	[4]
50	17–170	1.6	Mouse tail skin	None	Necrosis ND50	[5]
22–34	300	1.36	Minipig and cat skin	General anaesthesia	Early and late reactions	[13]
15–17	40	1.8	Mouse lung	Ketamine/xylazine/acepromazine	Fibrosis	[9]
10	100–10 <sup>6</sup>	1.4	Mouse brain	Isoflurane	Memory	[10] Montay-Gruel et al. (in revision)



# Clinical FLASH Protons

- Manufacturers setting up clinical beams



**University Medical  
Center Groningen,  
The Netherlands**



## Flash Irradiation Delivered in a Proteus®ONE Treatment Room



Proton therapy / 11.06.2019

**Successful Ultra High Dose Rate delivered at Isocenter in IBA's compact proton therapy solution**

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 11 June 2019 – IBA (Ion Beam Applications SA), the world's leading provider of proton therapy solutions, is pleased to announce the first Flash irradiation in an IBA Proteus®ONE compact gantry treatment room at the Rutherford Cancer Centre Thames Valley in Reading, United Kingdom, on June 8, 2019. This represents another major milestone for IBA and its medical and research partners in their work to lead the development of Flash irradiation.

## Flash Irradiation Delivered in a Clinical Treatment Room



Proton therapy / 08.03.2019

**Successful Flash Irradiation at Isocenter in IBA's Proteus® Solution Gantry Room**

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, 8 March 2019 – IBA (Ion Beam Applications SA), the world's leading provider of proton therapy solutions, is pleased to announce the first Flash irradiation in an IBA gantry treatment room at the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG) in The Netherlands. This achievement represents a major milestone in the work that IBA and its medical and research partners are engaged to bring Flash irradiation to clinical treatment.



# FLASH Irradiation

## Experimental Evaluation of Oxygen Consumption during FLASH Radiation in Photons, Protons and Carbon Ions.

Jeannette Jansen, Raphael Skuza, Jan Knoll, Rachel Hanley,  
Francesca Pagliari, Stephan Bruns, Elke Beyreuther, Jörg Pawelke,  
Joao Seco

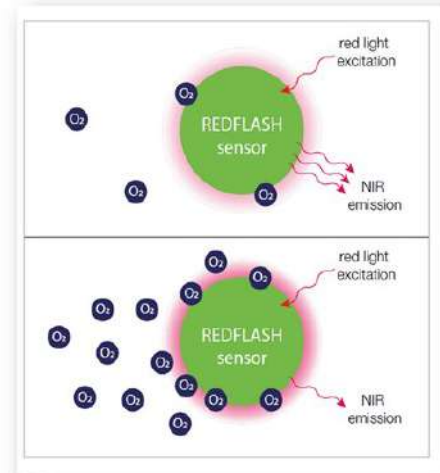
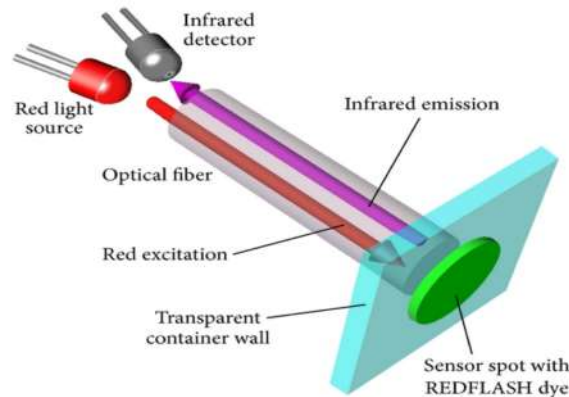
Author address(es) here

Version typeset November 3, 2020

Author to whom correspondence should be addressed: Joao Seco. email: [j.seco@dkfz-heidelberg.de](mailto:j.seco@dkfz-heidelberg.de)

# Measure Oxygen Consumption

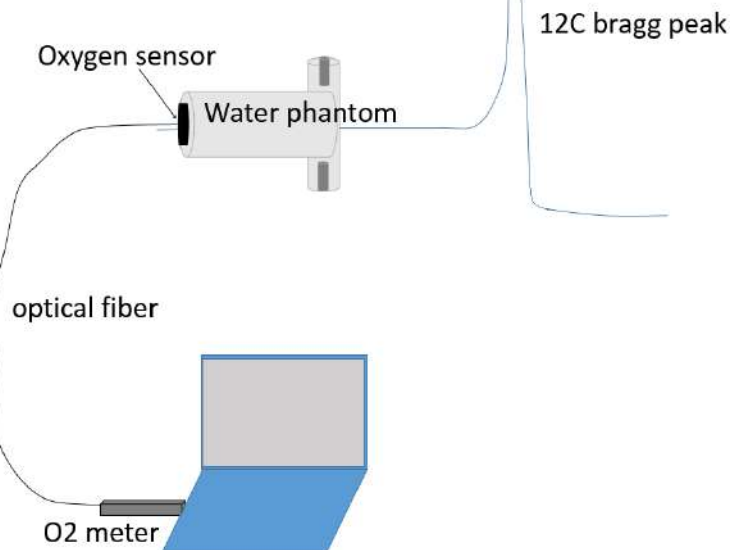
- sealed water phantom
- optical sensor
- allows for non-invasive measurement
- suitable for all beam geometries



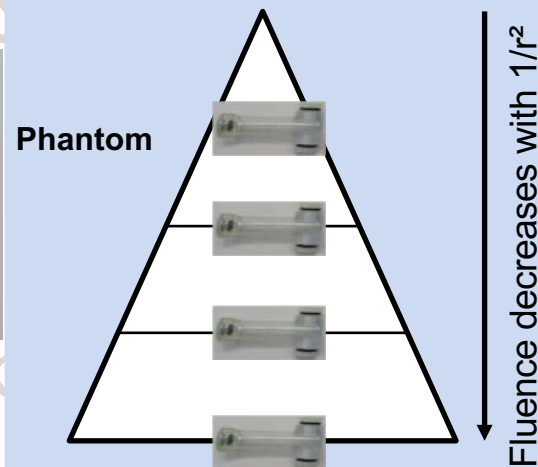
# Oxygen Measurement: Oximeter

- sealed water phantom
- optical sensor
- allows for non-invasive measurement
- suitable for all beam geometries

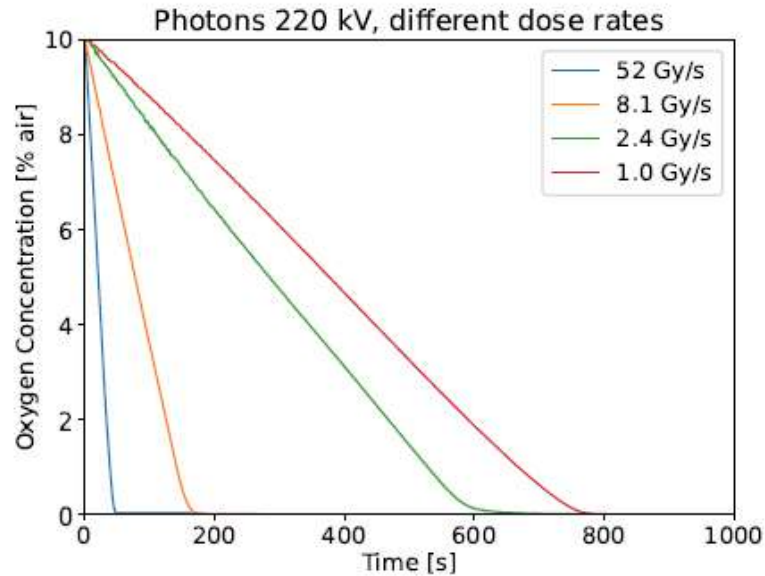
**Ion Beam**



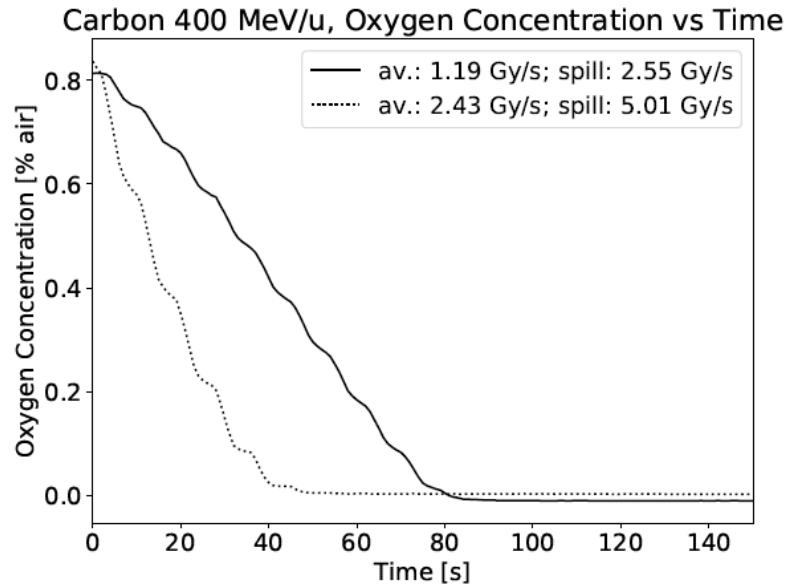
**X-ray Source**



# Oxygen Concentration for 220kV Photons

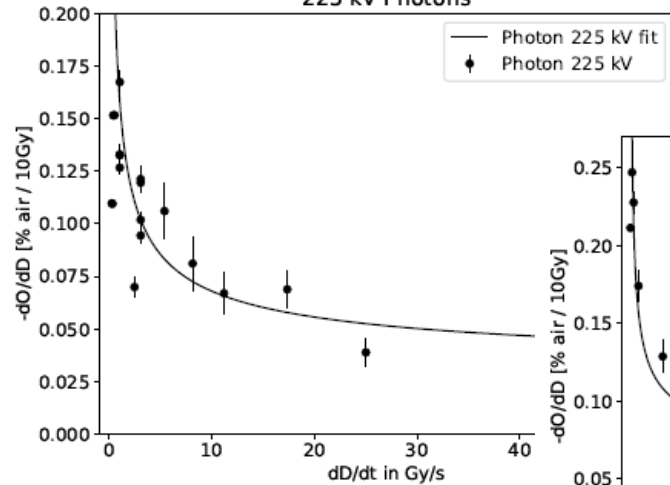


# Oxygen Concentration for 400MeV/u Carbon Ions

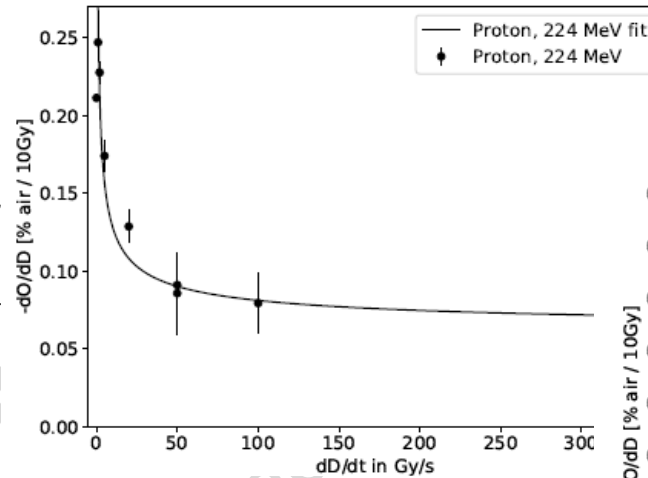


# Oxygen Consumption vs Dose Rate

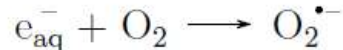
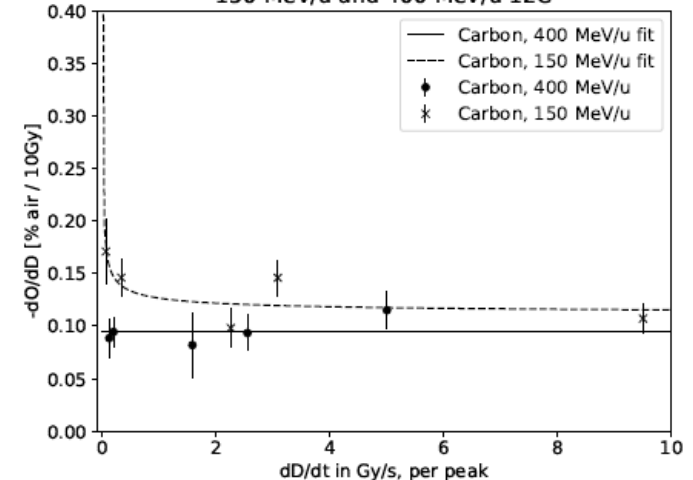
225 kV Photons



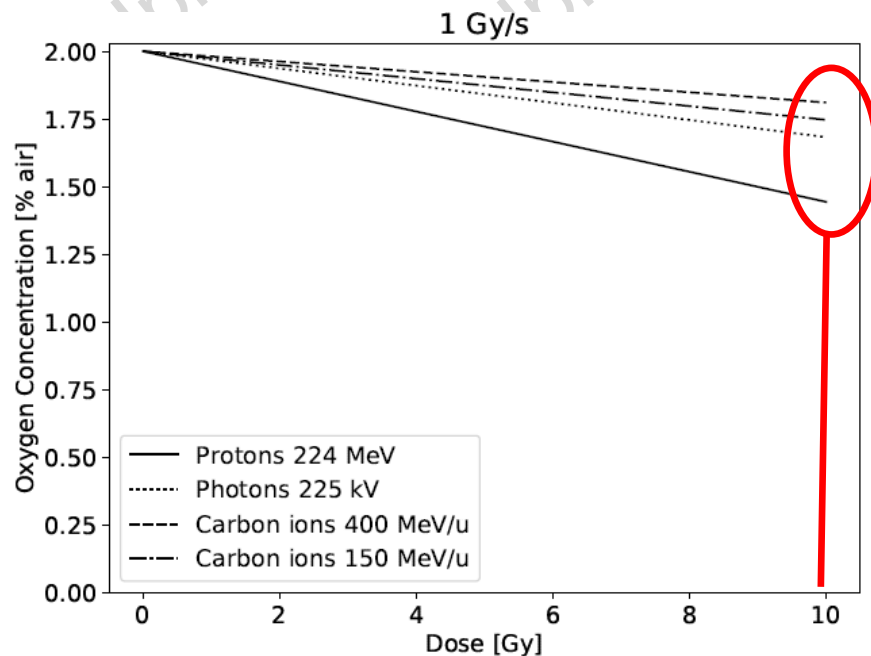
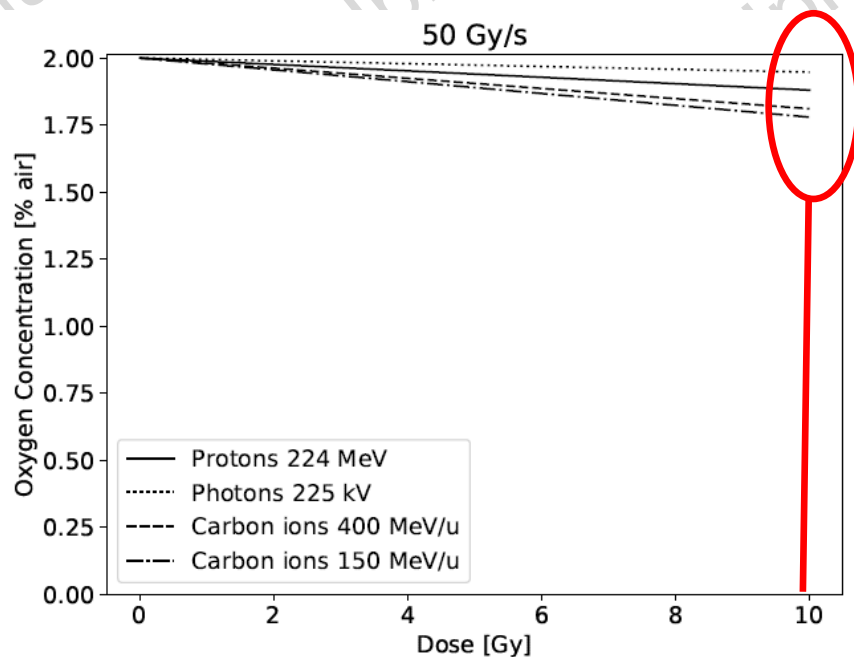
224 MeV Protons



150 MeV/u and 400 MeV/u 12C



# Oxygen Consumption vs Dose



**NO Oxygen Depletion @ 10 Gy**



# Physics Challenges in Proton Therapy

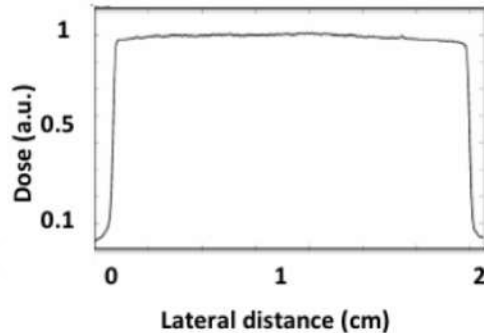
## FLASH Irradiation:

- Why does FLASH protect organs and not affect tumor control?
- All clinical applications of FLASH have used 1 beam (e- or p+).  
How do we clinically implement FLASH with multiple beams?

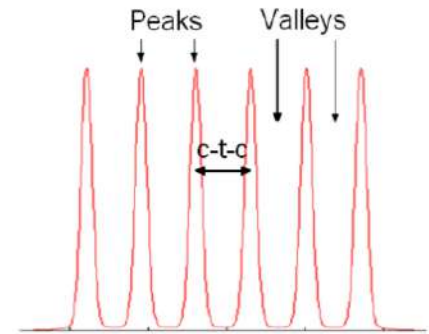
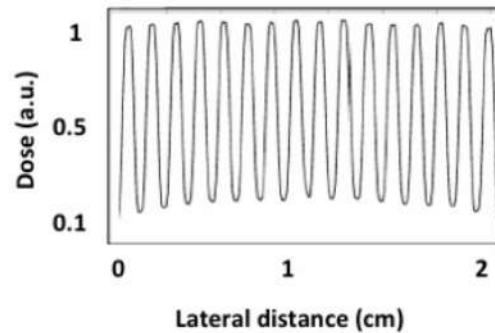
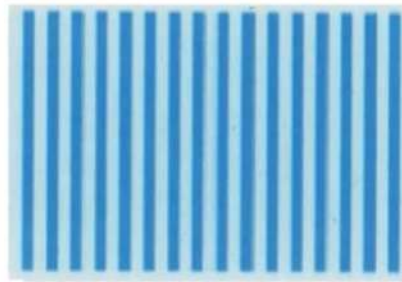
# **Micro- and Mini-Beam Irradiation Protects Organs**

# Micro- and Mini-Beam Irradiation

Conventional  
RT

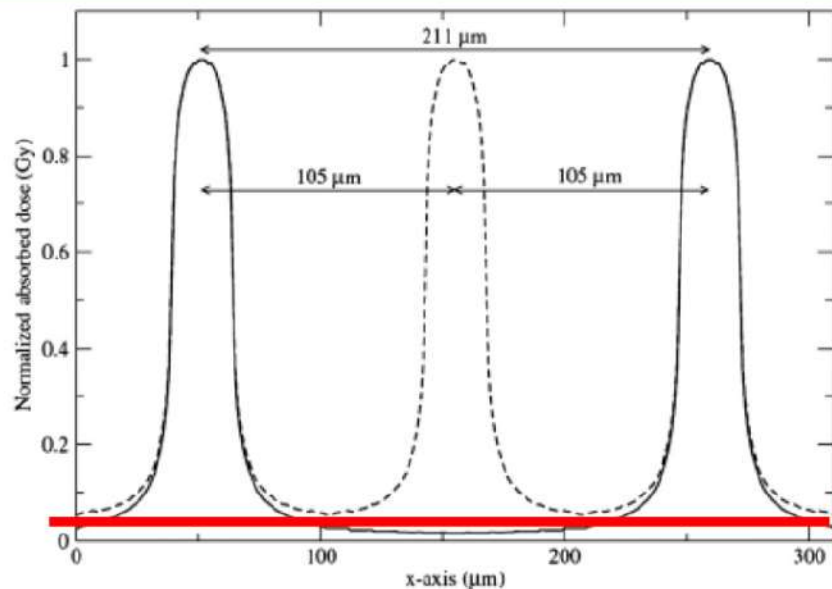


Spatially fractionated  
RT



$$PVDR = \frac{D_{\text{peak}}}{D_{\text{valley}}}$$

# MRT= extremely high doses delivered in spatially fractionated microplans



**Tissue tolerance  
threshold dose for  
healthy tissue  
homogeneous  
irradiation**

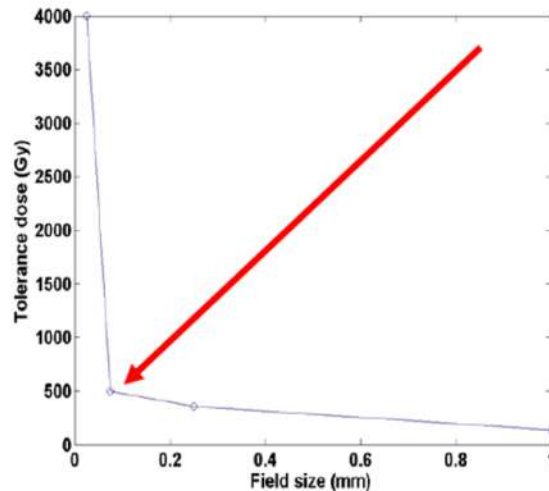
**The dose in the valleys that creates a dose offset in the tissues, has to be below the tolerance threshold dose**

# Dose Volume Effect

1mm

Mouse Brain  
(visual cortex)

25 $\mu$ m



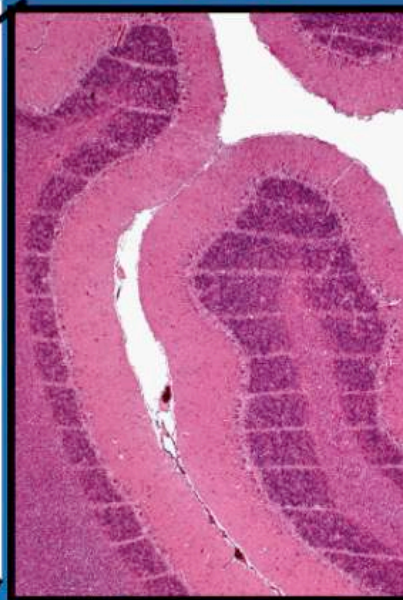
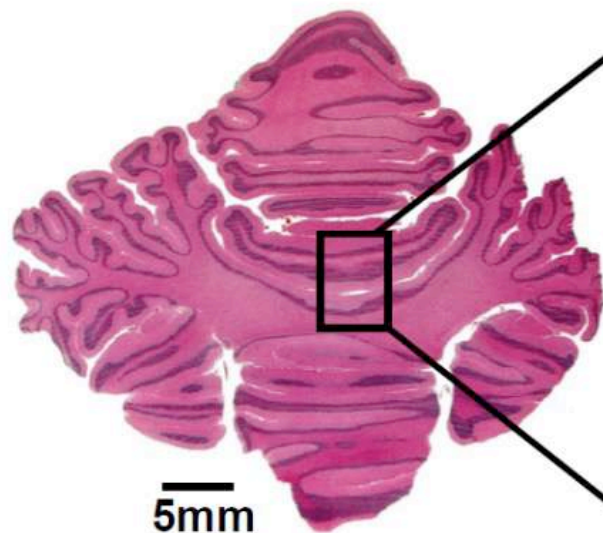
Zeman et al 1961  
Radiat Res 15, 496

140 Gy

4000 Gy



# Tissue sparing of MRT on piglet cerebellum



300 (625) Gy  
25/200  $\mu\text{m}$  ctc

## MRT +15 months

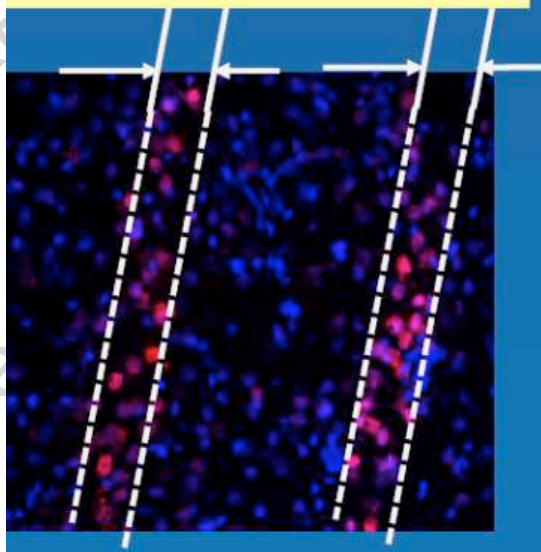
No tissue destruction. Normal appearance of brain and cerebellum

Animals (20 pigs) were kept alive for ~2 years.  
No one animal showed CNS damage clinical signs

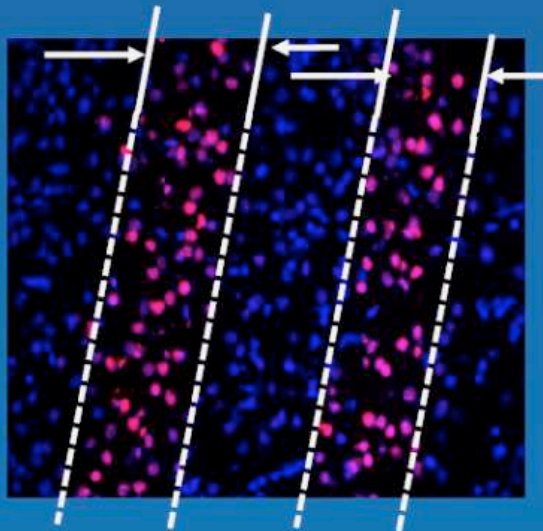
# Sharp lateral dose fall off: rat brain

pH2Ax analysis (DNA Double Strand Breaks)

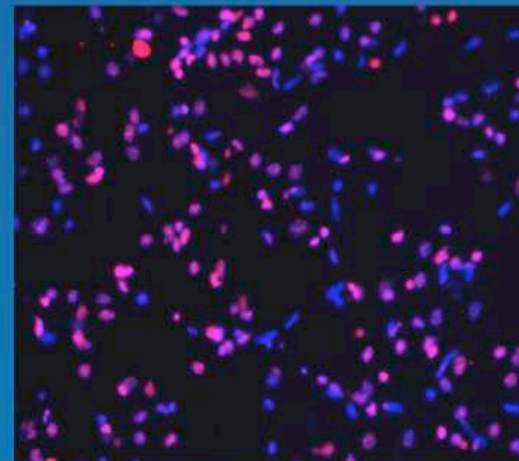
50  $\mu\text{m}$  / 200  $\mu\text{m}$  c-t-c



100  $\mu\text{m}$  / 200  $\mu\text{m}$  c-t-c

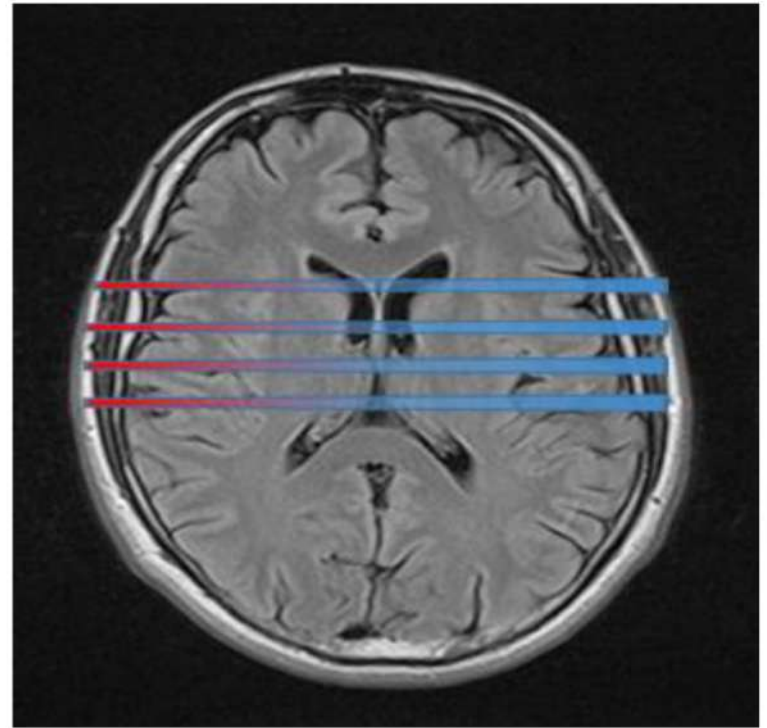
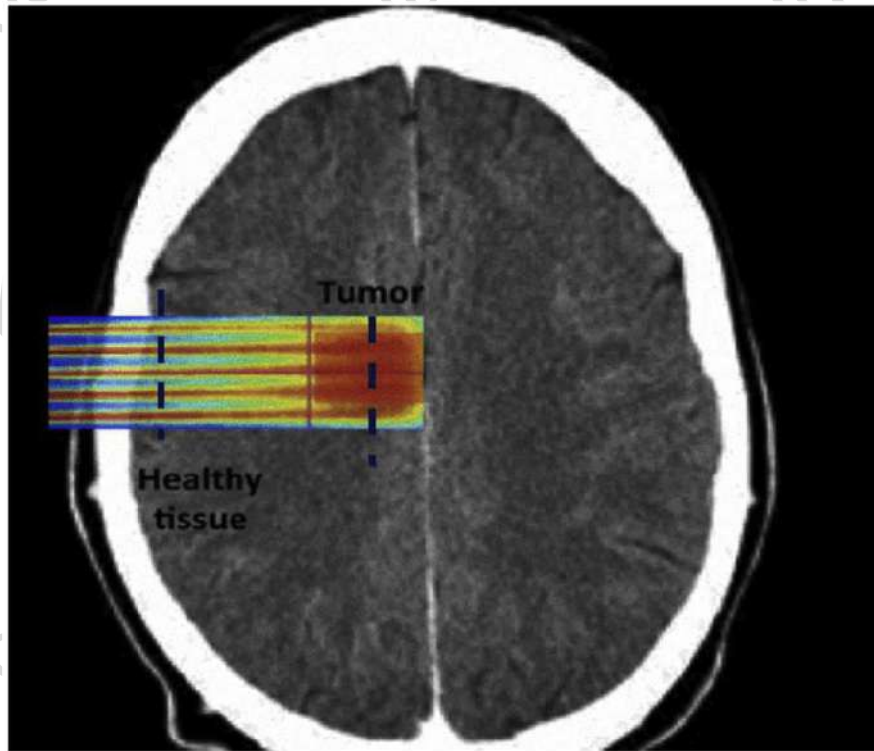


homogeneous





# Possible Clinical Implementation



# Proton Mini-beam in High-Grade Glioma

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

### Proton minibeam radiation therapy widens the therapeutic index for high-grade gliomas

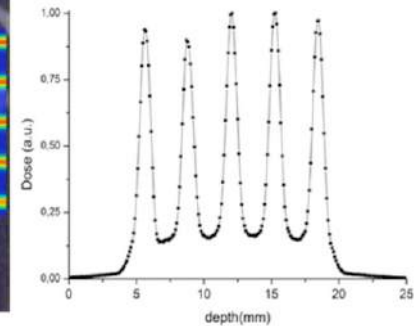
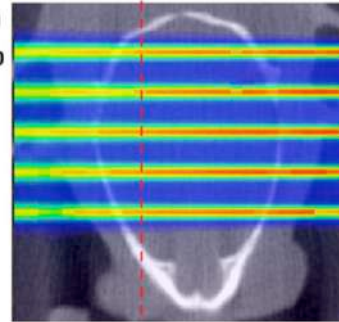
Yolanda Prezado<sup>1</sup>, Gregory Jouvion<sup>2</sup>, Annalisa Patriarca<sup>3</sup>, Catherine Nauraye<sup>3</sup>, Consuelo Guardiola<sup>1</sup>, Marjorie Juchaux<sup>1</sup>, Charlotte Lamirault<sup>1</sup>, Dalila Labiod<sup>4,5</sup>, Laurene Jourdain<sup>6</sup>, Catherine Sebr  <sup>6</sup>, Remi Dendale<sup>3</sup>, Wilfredo Gonzalez<sup>1</sup> & Frederic Pouzoulet<sup>4,5</sup>

11 July 2018

26 October 2018

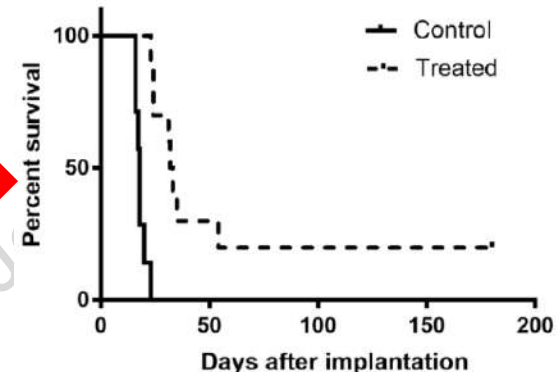
online: 07 November 2018

D (%)  
100  
75  
50  
25  
0



C-T-C = 3.2  $\mu\text{m}$  or 3200  $\mu\text{m}$  or  $\mu\text{m}$

Study groups	Sacrificed	MRI	Histology
Tumor bearing- rats, non-irradiated controls (n = 7)	When endpoints reached	No	All
Tumor bearing- rats, pMBRT (n = 9)	When endpoints reached or at the end of the study (6 months)	10 days after irradiation (n = 5) Long-term survivals (n = 2/9)	All
Normal rats, pMBRT (n = 9)	If endpoints reached or at the end of study: 6 months (n = 5) 12 months (n = 4)	6 months (n = 5) 12 months (n = 4)	All
Normal rats, controls (n = 4)	At the end of study	No	All



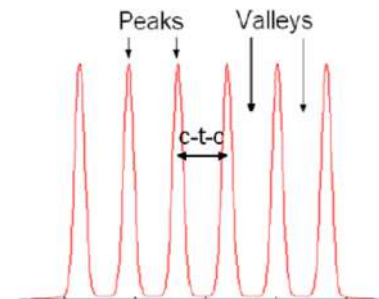
# Chemical Model for Micro and Mini-Beams



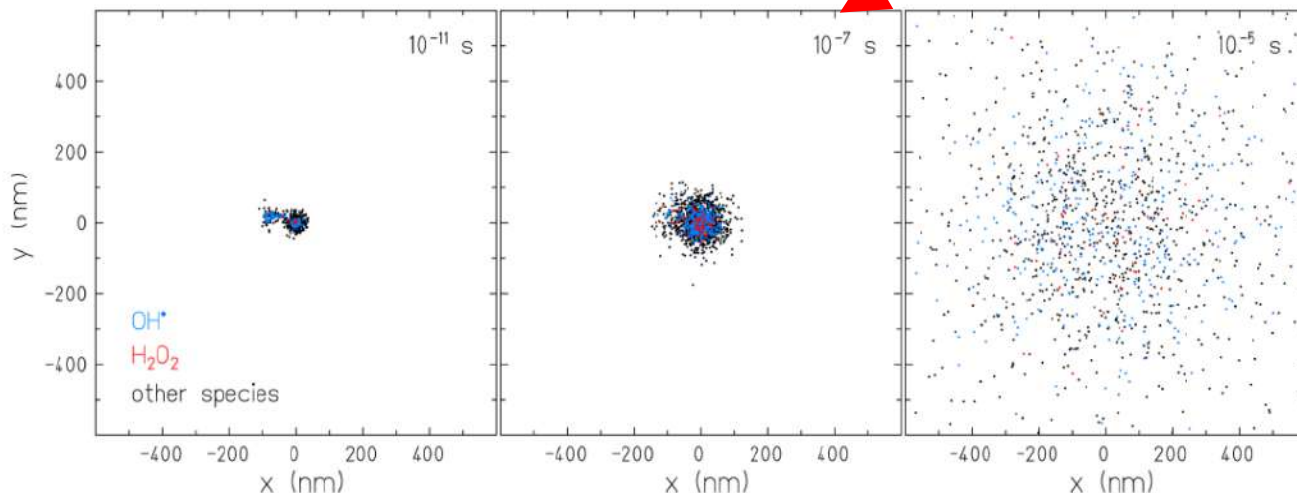
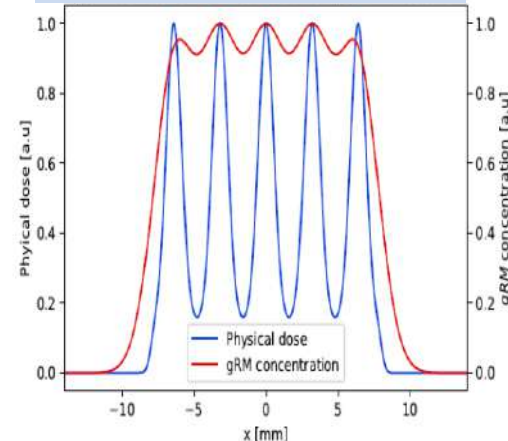
## Proposal of a chemical mechanism for mini-beam and micro-beam efficacy

Riccardo Dal Bello<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Tobias Becher<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Martina C. Fuss<sup>3</sup>, Michael Krämer<sup>3</sup>  
and Joao Seco<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

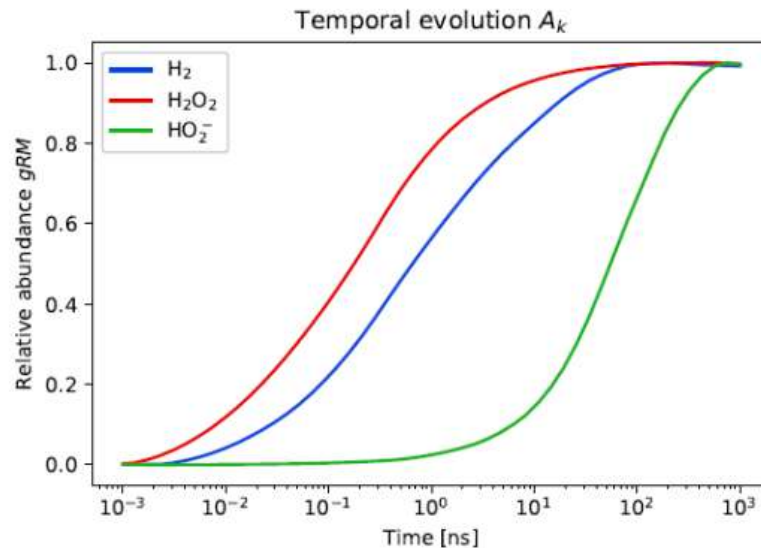
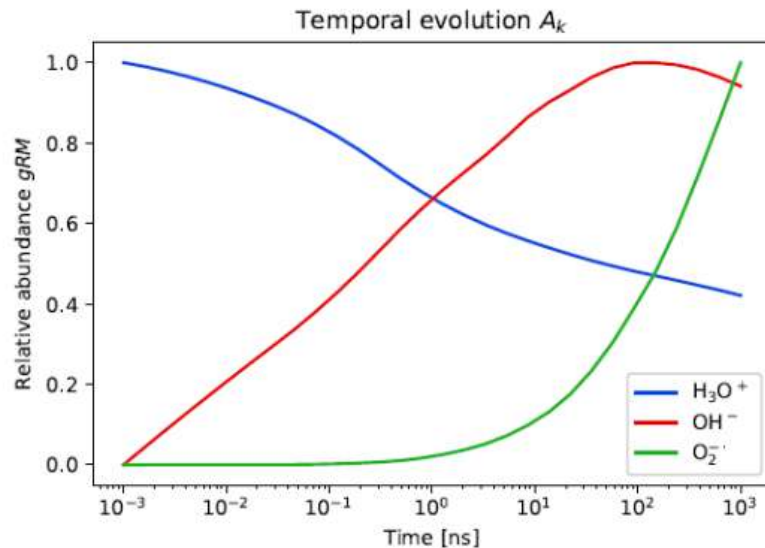
$\bullet\text{OH}$	$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$	$\bullet\text{H}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$
$e^-$	$\text{H}_2$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$	$\text{OH}^-$
$\text{O}_2$	$\bullet\text{HO}_2$	$\bullet\text{O}_2$	$\text{HO}_2^-$



### H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Tumor Coverage



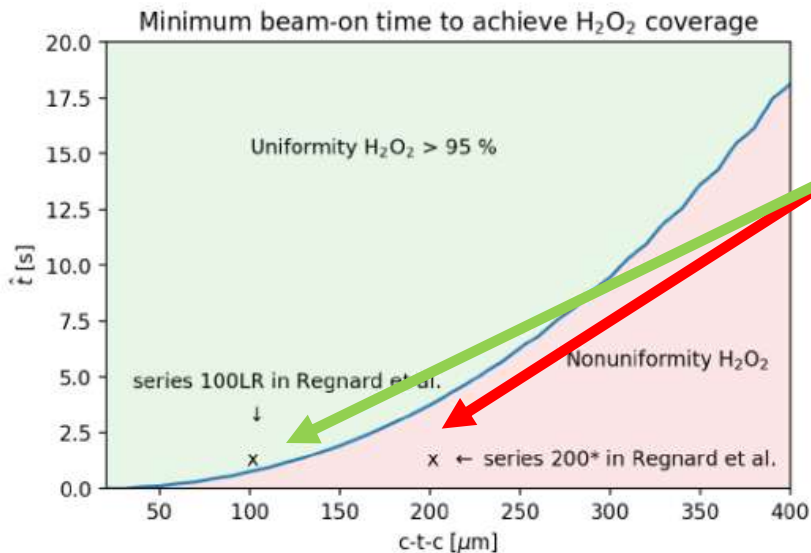
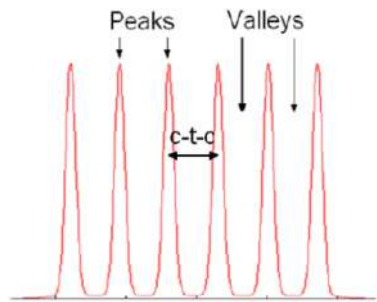
# Chemical Model for Micro and Mini-Beams



$\bullet OH$	$H_3O^+$	$\bullet H$	$H_2O$
$e^-$	$H_2$	$H_2O_2$	$OH^-$
$O_2$	$\bullet HO_2$	$\bullet O_2^-$	$HO_2^-$

# Time to Achieve tumor Coverage with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

	<u>C-T-C distance</u>	<u>Model</u> Minimum Time to H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Coverage	<u>Irradiation time</u>
Prezado (2018)	3200 $\mu$ meter	$2120 \pm 240$ s for Prezado et al. [8]	2100 s
Dombrowsky (2020)	350 micro meter	$13.9 \pm 1.5$ s for Dombrowsky et al. [6]	300 s
Regnard 200* (2008)	200 micro meter	$3.5 \pm 0.4$ s for 200* in Regnard et al. [9]	1 s
Regnard 100* (2008)	100 micro meter	$0.70 \pm 0.08$ s for 100LR in Regnard et al. [9]	1 s





# Physics Challenges in Proton Therapy

## Micro- or Mini-beam Irradiation:

- **Micro-beams presently not possible with presently available commercial proton therapy machines.**
- **Mini-beams possible with new Pencil Beam Scanning systems, but new animal studies are needed to validate new model. A better understanding is needed of mechanism.**



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# GOT IT?..... Questions??



**DKFZ**

