

Quality Research in Radiation Oncology (QRRO): Improving quality of care in the management of gastric cancer.
Sub-category: [Multidisciplinary Treatment](#)
Category: Esophagus and Stomach

Meeting: [2009 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium](#)
Abstract No: 111

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Abstract: **Introduction:** The ACR Quality Research in Radiation Oncology (QRRO) aims to assess the quality of care of the radiation oncology community and track the utilization of advanced radiotherapy technology. Gastric cancer was selected for study to evaluate the penetrance of clinical trial results establishing postoperative chemoradiation as a validated standard-of-care in North America. **Methods:** A National Process Survey has been developed for gastric cancer to measure patient demographics, diagnosis, staging, history, geographic region, practice setting, insurance status, treatment, and outcome. QRRO is performing a two-stage stratified random sample of 80 radiation oncology facilities nationwide (first stage) and eligible cases treated within those facilities from 2005-2007 (second stage). Facility and process survey data will be collected through retrospective patient record review and will be used to calculate national averages and make statistically valid inferences for national process measures. The GI committee defined a core set of process measures based on results of clinical trials and national practice guidelines: 1) Use of postoperative chemoradiation; 2) Extent of surgical resection (D1 v. D2); and 3) Completion of planned radiotherapy (RT) course within prescribed time frame. Emerging process of care measures were defined based on best available evidence and expert consensus: 1) Use of CT-based simulation and treatment planning; 2) Use of dose volume histograms (DVH) to evaluate normal tissue doses to the kidneys, liver, and spinal cord; 3) Use of preoperative chemoradiation; and 4) Use of image-guided tools, other than CT scans, for RT target delineation. **Conclusions:** As radiation oncologists incorporate new technology and clinical guidelines into their practice, assessment of quality of care is necessary to inform practitioners of their professional performance. QRRO's survey data will provide national benchmark data for quality indicators and will allow for continuous feedback to improve the management of gastric cancer.

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Associated Presentation(s):

1. **Quality Research in Radiation Oncology (QRRO): Improving quality of care in the management of gastric cancer.**

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