# Accelerators For Medicine: Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities

#### Jürgen Debus

Department Radiation Oncology, Univ. Heidelberg and Heidelberg Ion Therapy Center, Germany

> DOE Workshop Washington DC, Oct. 26 2009



## History of medical applications of accelerators

- 1895 *Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen* (1845 1923) discovers the X-rays on 8th November at the University in Würzburg
- 1896 On 23<sup>rd</sup> January Röntgen announced his discovery and demonstrated the new kind of radiation by a photograph of the hand of his colleague *Albert von Kolliker*
- 1897 First treatments of tissue with X-rays by Leopold Freund at University in Vienna
- 1901 Physics Nobel prize for W.C. Röntgen

Schematics of an X-ray tube – an "electrostatic accelerator"









Die durchleuchtete Hand von Bertha Röntgen 1895. Sie gilt als erste Röntgenaufnahme von einem Menschen.

## History: High Voltage Therapy Of Cancer Heidelberg, 1907





## History of medical applications of accelerators

- 1899 First X-ray treatment of carcinoma in Sweden by Stenbeck and Sjögren
- 1906 Vinzenz Czerny founded the "Institute for Experimental Cancer research" in Heidelberg – the first of its kind
- 1913/4 Invention of part- and full-rotation radiation instrumentation
- 1920's Industrially manufactured X-ray apparatus; example from Reiniger-Gebbert & Schall AG (later: Siemens), Erlangen; 1922) with a high-voltage of 150 kV – without shielding!
- 1930 First linear accelerator principle invented by *Rolf Wideroe*
- 1949 *Newberry* developed first linear accelerator for therapy in England







## Radiation "Concentrator", Heidelberg 1913





## History of medical applications of accelerators

1950's Development of compact linear accelerators byand Varian, Siemens, GE, Philipps and otherslater with energies up to around 25 MeV (and above)



radiotherapy (Stanford linac)

modern linac for therapy



today: 5-10 linacs per 1 million inhabitants

# Treatment Planning:

#### Identify the target, model the patient, model the beam

1. model of the patient

2. model of the beam







#### **Target Defintion By Multi-Modal Imaging: Glioblastoma**



## PET Tracers In Oncology: Molecular Imaging

	Metabolism		Perfusion
	<sup>18</sup> FDG	$H_{2}^{15}C$	
	<sup>18</sup> FECh		
	Amino acids		<b>Proliferation</b>
	<sup>11</sup> C-methionine		<sup>11</sup> C-thymidine
	<sup>18</sup> F-tyrosine		<sup>18</sup> FLT
	<sup>11</sup> C-AIB		<u>Hypoxia</u>
	<sup>18</sup> FET		<sup>18</sup> F-MISO
	<u>Peptides</u>		Drugs
	<sup>68</sup> Ga-DOTATOC		<sup>18</sup> FU
	<u>Angiogenesis</u>		many others experimentally
	<sup>18</sup> F-Galacto-RGD		apoptoses, gen transfer etc.
Heidel			

#### Sensitive Imaging Of Tumors: FECH PET In Recurrent Prostate Cancer (PSA 1,4)



## Imaging For RT Planning With DOTATOC: Recurrence Of Olfactorius Meningeoma

#### 68Ga-DOTATOC



# Binds to somatostatin receptor type II





# Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT)





# Esophageal Cancer: Potential Variation Of The Target



### **Integration Of Imaging And Treatment**



- combination of CTscanner
  and linear accelerator
- 85 cm Gantry-opening
- radiation volume diameter up to 40cm length up to 160cm
- 6 MV photons
- megavoltage CT (3MV)

14

## Charged Particle Beams Slow Down And Stop X-rays keep going at the speed of light



# Heavy Charged Particles In Radiotherapy It's simply the physics!



# History of medical applications of accelerators

- 1929 Invention of cyclotron by Ernest Lawrence
- 1930's Experimental neutron therapy
- 1946 R. R. Wilson proposed proton & ion therapy
- 1950's Proton therapy, LBL Berkeley (184" cyclotron)



- 1945 Edwin Mattison McMillan at University of California and Vladimir Iosifovich Veksler (Soviet Union) invented the synchrotron principle
- 1975 Begin of carbon therapy in Bevalac synchrotron (Berkeley)





# Harvard Cyclotron: Patient Treatments 1974-2002



#### Treatment Of Occular Melanoma At The Harvard Cyclotron



## Occular Melanoma

#### **Primary Symptom: reduced/disturbed vision**







#### The MGH / MEEI Experience: Gragoudas, E. et al. Arch Ophthalmol 2002;120:1665-1671.



OPHTHALMOLOGY

#### Ocular Melanoma Proton Therapy at Hahn-Meitner Institute The "Learning Curve" (courtesy J. Heufelder)



#### Potential Of Protons To Spare Uninvolved Structures Radiotherapy Of Paraaortic Lymphnodes: Challenge: Geometrical Changes During Treatment

#### **Conventional Approach**





#### **Particle Beams**



40 Gy 39 Gy 41 Gy bone marrow bowel spinal cord < 1 Gy < 1 Gy 26 Gy

#### Craniospinal Radiotherapy For Medulloblastoma charged particles can spare normal tissue

#### photons

#### challenge: size of the target !

#### particles





#### Craniospinal RT In 14 Year Old: Sparing Of Bone Marrow

Physiologic and Radiographic Evidence of the Distal Edge of the Proton Beam in Craniospinal Irradiation Krejcarek SC, Tarbell NJ, Yock TI et al. IJROBP 68(3):646-649, 2007



A 14-year-old girl with supratentorial primitive neuroectodermal tumor: craniospinal irradiation prescribed to the thecal sac and exiting nerve roots only. (a) T1-weighted magnetic resonance image 1 week before radiation treatment. (b) proton radiotherapy treatment plan. (c) T1-weighted MRI with hyperintense fatty changes in posterior aspect of vertebral bodies 1 month after PRT.



## Particle Therapy Facilities - worldwide



PT centres: a rapidly growing market



# Particles in Radiation Oncology

Comparison of Protons, Neutrons, Pions, Ions and Photons



## Implications on the beam energy





#### Physics and Biology of radiation therapy

Basic effect of radiation on cells: energy loss in matter leads to defects in the DNA – double strand breaks of the DNA kills the cell. Tumor cells have less repair capabilities than normal cells.







### Physics and Biology of radiation therapy





Low LET

#### Homogeneous deposition of dose

High LET

# Local deposition of high doses

LET: Linear energy transfer



#### LBL, Berkeley, US Neon ion experience 1979-1998; 239 pts (Linstadt, 1991)

Tumor	# pts	Dose	5y-LC	5y-DSS
		GyE (med.)		
Lung st. II-III	20	48-74 (63)	12 %	5 %
Esophagus	14	37-89 (68)	-	-
Stomach	9	45-60 (56)	37 %	11 %
Pancreas	64	30-71 (58)	6 % (3yrs)	1.5 % (OS)
Biliary tract	13	48-68 (60)	44 %	28 %
Prostate	12	70-79 (77)	75 %	90 %
Soft T. Sarcoma	12	37-80 (60)	56 %	56 %
<b>Bone Sarcoma</b>	19	50-76 (70)	59 %	45 %
Paran.sinus	12	, , ,	69 %	69 %
Saliv. gland	18		61 %	59 %
Melanoma	6	48-80 (60)	-	-
Miscellaneous	40			

#### Conforming the Beam to the Target: Scattering Method



# **Optimized Treatment By Beam Scanning**

Development in the 90ies: Scanning techniques

a) Protons (Pedroni PSI): spot scanning gantry (1D magnetic pencil beam scanning) plus passive range stacking (digital range shifter)

b) Ions (Haberer et al.): raster scanning (2D magnetic pencil beam scanning) plus active range stacking (spot size, intensity) in the accelerator





Intensity-Controlled Rasterscan Technique, Haberer et al., GSI, NIM A, 1993

# Intensity Controlled Raster Scanning with heavy charged particles:



<u>Clinical Experience:</u> Protons: PSI, CH: 450 patients MDACC, MGH

Carbon-ions: GSI, D: 440 patients

**Clinical Feasibility** 

Verification film irradiated with C-12 in 1996



# Challenge: Size Of The Beam, Precision, Time



# **Beam Size**





# First Hospital Based Particle Therapy Facility – Loma Linda/USA



13,500 patients treated



Stationary Beam

Gantries



1<sup>st</sup> hospital based proton therapy centre (since 1990) using a synchrotron – designed and commissioned by Fermilab 2005: 160 sessions/day

## Study Of Protontherapy In Patients With Prostate Cancer (PROG 9509)



#### Improved Freedom from Biochemical Failure (PSA)



Zietman et al 2005

## Particle Therapy Facilities – HIMAC/Japan



The Heavy Ion Medical Accelerator of NIRS (since 1994)

Two identical 800 MeV/u synchrotrons for ions up to Argon; mainly Carbon is used

4,500 patients treated





#### Local Control & Biochemical Relapse Free Rates Prostate Cancer (Japan)



#### Patient mit inoperablem malignen Melanom 57.6GyE/16fx





#### 48 Monate nach RT



## Particle Therapy Facilities – HIT/Heidelberg



HIT concept and layout is based on experience from GSI; 448 patients were treated with carbon beams from 1997 – 2008 using raster scanning technique





## Principle of in-situ PET







## **Verification with PET**



Patient during treatment



**Expected PET** 



#### **PET-Measurement**



#### **Progressionfree Survival** Chordoma / Chondrosarcoma G1/2 n=67 (Phase II Study)



#### Local Tumor Control Chordome n=91 (Dose =60 Gy vs > 60 Gy)





#### Motivation: Dose Response Relationship Radiotherapy of Skull Base Chordomas



## Adenoidzystic Carcinoma: Follow-up





**6 Weeks after RT** 





#### FSRT / IMRT vs. FSRT / IMRT + C12 locally advanced adenoidcystic carcinoma



#### Schulz-Ertner, Cancer. 2005 Jul 15;104(2):338-44

52

## First Stone Ceremony Of HIT: May, 2004





#### Accelerator On Campus facilitating clinical and translational research

Strong partners joint forces @HIT: university HD, NCT, dkfz, GSI



## Particle Therapy Facilities – HIT/Heidelberg



Start of patient treatment scheduled in 2 weeks

Compact building (60 x 70 m<sup>2</sup>, 3 levels), directly linked to the "Head Clinics" of the University Hospital





## Particle Therapy Facilities – HIT/Heidelberg



Worldwide first isocentric ion gantry – including a scanning system: Ø = 13m 25m long 600 tons overall weight 0.5 mm

max.

deformation







### New concepts – laser plasma accelerators



## New concepts – Dielectric wall accelerators

G. Caporaso et al, LLNL

250 MeV protons in 2.5 m?

Pulse-to-pulse energy & intensity variation "Hoping to build a full-scale prototype soon"



Figure 1: Dielectric wall induction accelerator configuration.





# Conclusion

- Particle accelerators are an important and well established tool in medicine
- There has been considerable progress in recent years on the technical, biological and clinical knowledge
- Further research is warranted to fully exploit the advantages of charged particles with higher efficiancy and at lower costs





