

RTDS – A British Success Story

THREE YEARS OF THE NATIONAL RADIOTHERAPY DATASET

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AIM

To describe the experience of initiating a National Dataset for Radiotherapy (RTDS) within the UK.

Since April 2009 NATCANSAT accepts records on every patient treated with radiotherapy funded by the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.

BACKGROUND



When the radiotherapy Körner return was disbanded in 1995, there was no longer a central collection of data for radiotherapy activity. The National Cancer Services Analysis Team formed in 1998 by Dr Brian Cottier recognised the gap in information and looked towards the Oncology Management System (OMS) which holds a wealth of electronic information on radiotherapy treatment.

METHOD

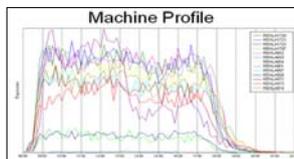
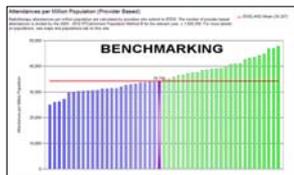
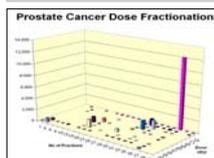
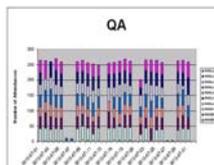
A pilot project investigated the feasibility of extracting data from the OMS and linking it with patient demographic data found only in the hospital administration systems. It became apparent the processes of data entry and coding with the OMS were inconsistent and for central reporting to become feasible a common set of currencies, formatting and coding need to be adopted.



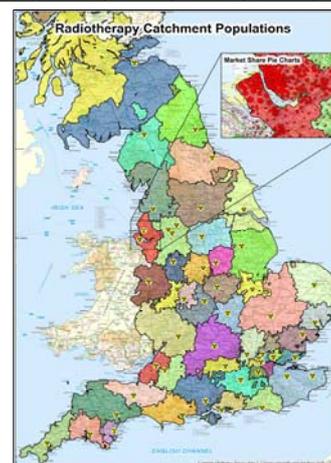
NATCANSAT took the first step towards standardisation by creating electronic toolkits which extracted OMS data, imported it and processed it into a standard return. NHS Trusts have the ability to quality assure and report information locally before submitting it. The toolkits are available to all radiotherapy providers in the UK. It allows the user to run an extract without knowledge of radiotherapy and/or database structures.

RESULTS

The aggregated data is reflected back to 55 radiotherapy centres and commissioners via a secure dedicated website, but the RTDS also provides unprecedented opportunities to examine the overall picture of radiotherapy, and to compare practice in many ways.



		ACTIVITY					
		2009/2010		2010/2011		2011/2012	
Number of		Episodes	Attendances	Episodes	Attendances	Episodes	Attendances
Total		121,289	1,647,249	125,506	1,719,607	130,420	1,793,552
Gender	Male	56,847	803,001	58,806	849,608	61,653	904,125
	Female	63,678	843,638	66,404	869,407	68,728	889,029
Oncology Group	Breast	34,144	485,611	35,589	506,676	37,132	510,076
	Urology	21,996	376,994	23,158	413,363	25,366	459,117
	Head & Neck	6,098	142,837	6,395	148,913	6,464	153,007
	Lung	16,394	124,599	16,965	132,214	17,736	141,890



CONCLUSIONS

National Dataset has had many positive spin-offs.

- Agreed currencies and definitions
- A convergence of working practices in the way OMS are used, which should improve safety
- Better understanding of their data by radiotherapy, management staff and commissioners
- The ability to link patient data to geography can provide evidence to assist planning the location of radiotherapy services

Beyond driving the financial and management arrangements for radiotherapy services, RTDS provides rich opportunities for clinical investigations and research which can help to develop practice.

Contributors

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