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Clinical Radiation Therapy Colour Cherenkov Imaging

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Commentary

Throughout medicine, colour vision is employed to interpret tissue health and state. Through the Cherenkov effect, ionising radiation used in radiation therapy produces broadband white light inside tissue, which is attenuated by tissue features when it leaves the body. For the first time, a novel time-gated three-channel camera was built and used to image colour Cherenkov emission from patients during therapy in this investigation. Comparisons with image calibrated tissue phantoms were used to analyse the spectral content. In radiotherapy, colour hues of Cherenkov emission can be utilised to assess tissue blood volume, oxygen saturation, and main arteries. Color vision is possibly the most commonly utilised diagnostic in medicine, with every point-of-care evaluation including it. The human eye can distinguish millions of colour shades, making it one of the most powerful diagnostic tools available, which clinicians use every day. The Cherenkov effect has been used to construct and show colour imaging of radiotherapy dose delivery in clinical radiation therapy in this study.

The attenuation and transmission of this light via human tissues changes the colour signal emitted from the patient's surface, resulting in biological tissue information. While Cherenkov emission has been known for decades this is the first comprehensive study of the benefits of multiwavelength imaging of this phenomena in the context of radiation therapy. Although X-rays are commonly employed to image through tissue, it has not been possible to directly view their interaction within tissue during dose deposition until recently. Cherenkov light imaging has provided a technique to image the dose delivery from high energy X-rays, as theory and simulations predict a linear relationship between Cherenkov emission and radiation dose under specified conditions. Cherenkov imaging with time-gated imaging can record the dose delivery process in real-time and visualise radiation treatments from beginning to end. The ability to see the impact of the beam on tissue gives an intuitive notion of how to ensure that daily treatments are given accurately.

To date, the systems created for Cherenkov imaging dosimetry have been monochrome intensified cameras, and *in vivo* Cherenkov imaging in other wavelength bands has received less attention due to the red and near-infrared weighted emission from tissue. Alterations in blood content and oxygenation within a tissue, on the other hand, have a significant impact on light emission, and the spectrum changes that result are known to be diagnostic. A three-sensor camera with a time-gated image intensifier on each channel was prototyped in this study to image the colour of Cherenkov light emitted during radiation therapy. Because radiation therapy is usually administered in brief pulses from a linear accelerator, time-gating allows for detection of this low-intensity signal above ambient light levels. This investigation was started to test the notion that changes in oxygenation and tissue composition may be seen in the photographs, in addition to viewing the true colour of Cherenkov emission from tissue.

For this investigation, a thorough design of the camera assembly was created. Following the phantom imaging, a systematic colour research was carried out, which was accompanied by patient imaging, in order to determine the value of these colours in describing radiation dose delivery. Cherenkov emission from tissue phantoms varies in colour. When compared to 1 percent deoxygenated blood, white light photographs of a tissue phantom with oxygenated porcine blood show an elevated red hue, which is reflected in the colour Cherenkov images. The blue glow at the phantom's outer edge, which is caused by Cherenkov light emitted in the glass and reflected in the phantom pictures with different blood concentrations, is particularly noticeable. The effect was quantified by analysing the average colour value in each phantom in the CIE xyY colour space overlayed on a chromaticity diagram [1-5].

Systematic alteration of blood concentration in liquid tissue phantoms resulted in an appreciable hue shift from blue to red, as shown, and this effect was quantified by analysing the average colour value in each phantom in the CIE xyY colour space overlayed on a chromaticity diagram With rising blood concentration from 0.5 percent to 3.5 percent, the calculated brightness parameter x shows a near-monotonic increase, and a linear fit to these data showed a high linear association (R2 = 0.96). This conclusion is consistent with the perceptual observation that higher blood concentrations result in a redder image, as well as the projected emission spectra from muscle tissue at different blood. This study shows three-channel colour imaging of Cherenkov emission in phantoms and *in vivo* during patient treatment for the first time. The prediction and demonstration that different tissues influence Cherenkov emission spectral features, and that this effect emerges as noticeable colour variations in a biologically relevant range of parameters, are shown in this paper. Previous research has shown that red-weighted monochrome Cherenkov imaging can give contrast for surface-level anatomical features and is sensitive to tissue density.

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