
EDITORIAL

About this issue...

Welcome readers and colleagues to the first edition of 2018. This edition has a focus on outcomes from radiotherapy interventions in cervical cancer and breast cancer. It is of great value that we as African researchers provide outcome and survival data from our own institutional experience in order to measure our successes in comparison to the international community.

Two publications hail from the oncology unit at the University of Cape Town. The first by Jemu et al. examines a cohort of Stage IIB cervical carcinoma patients treated with chemoradiation. Encouragingly, the outcomes of overall survival are on par with many reported outcomes in the international literature. The study highlights the importance of maintaining haemoglobin levels during treatment and maintaining adherence to weekly chemotherapy to ensure an adequate dose is delivered. The second study from Ralefala et al. examines the use of postoperative radiotherapy in early stage cervical carcinoma. The research question focused on outcomes between a small pelvic field and a 'whole' pelvic field. Though it is a small cohort, it is noted that there was no difference in overall survival; this adds to the body of knowledge that a smaller field does not appear to be detrimental to outcome.

Pieter Wessels provides us with a vital update in the fast-changing arena of venous thromboembolic disease. He lays emphasis on the need for thromboprophylaxis in hospitalised patients with an active underlying malignancy. The scoring system will be an essential guide for preoperative patients, in particular those with a high BMI.

The southern African region is participating actively in cross-border training in many specialties, including clinical and gynaecology oncology. Dorothy Lombe shares her experience of training in South Africa and some of the challenges she faces on returning home to her own centre in Lusaka.

In the breast cancer corner, Heunis et al. report on a retrospective analysis showing good outcomes following 2-dimensional radiotherapy in postoperative breast cancer patients.

A short report from Bengaluru on an unusual case of primary peritoneal carcinosarcoma is included – one of very few reported in the literature.

Finally, we say a sad farewell to our colleague and friend Dr Raymond Dusabe; he will be missed by us all.

Hannah Simonds and Linda Rogers