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Role of palliative radiation therapy in the management of cardiac metastasis

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Despite being a rare kind of metastatic disease, cardiac metastases (CM) are becoming more common as cancer patient survival rates and prognoses are starting to improve. The majority of cardiac tumors are metastatic, with the most common source being melanoma and mediastinal primary tumors. In particular, large, rapidly growing tumours may pose a life-threatening threat from this condition. Cardiovascular metastasis patients typically have disseminated disease and are incurable; however, with the proper medical care and aggressive multidisciplinary treatment, patients' quality of life and overall survival may be improved. Surgery and chemotherapy is usually not an option for treating patients with cardiac metastasis due to poor tumour resectability and patients poor performance status. Palliative radiation therapy emerges as treatment of choice for treating such cancer presentations in order to alleviate symptoms and stop the progressive deterioration of heart function. In this article, we will discuss the role of palliative radiation therapy in management of cardiac metastasis and also the effect it has on overall survival of the patient.

Biography

Neha Sharma has completed her post-graduation in oncology from S.N.Medical College Agra and her senior residency from Maulana Azad Medical College New Delhi. She has received P.G. appreciation award by National Medicos Organisation, India. She is currently working as assistant professor in the department of radiation oncology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. She has published multiple papers and chapters in reputed national and international journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of repute.