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Swedish Radiation Safety Authority

Author: The national reference group

Research

2016:20

A standardized Swedish naming
convention for radiation therapy

SSM perspective

Background

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) is striving to ensure a safe use of radiation in medical applications. Half of those patients in Sweden who are suffering from a malignant disease will undergo radiotherapy treatment in the course of their disease. This means that in Swedish hospitals approximately 25,000 patients per year are treated with radiotherapy. SSM has previously been able to observe that Swedish oncology clinics using radiotherapy are not performing a revision based on the clinical outcome, as specified in the requirements stated by the European Union and the SSM. The reason for that are mainly the poor supportive conditions. To perform a clinical audit, as required, and to conduct effective research it is essential that treatment information, with relevant quality metrics, is collected and made available in a structured and coherent manner. It is currently still a demanding task for clinics to access such information. One of the reasons is the lack of a standardized nomenclature for radiation parameters.

This report is a revised version of a standardized Swedish nomenclature for radiation harmonized with available international standards.

Purpose

The research purpose of this work is, through the development of a standardized national nomenclature for radiation therapy; to contribute to favorable conditions for users to revise their work based on the clinical outcome.

Results

The efforts to develop a standardized Swedish nomenclature for radiation therapy have mainly been carried out by a reference group linked to the research mission. The reference group consisted of physicians and medical physicists from several of the country's radiotherapy clinics. The developed standards have been harmonized with published international standards. This report presents a second version of the standard. SSM encourages all radiotherapy clinics in Sweden to work in accordance with the new standard so that a uniform nomenclature can be established. SSM expects that in the long term, this will improve the safety of patients undergoing radiotherapy in an effective way.

Project information

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This report concerns a study which has been conducted for the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, SSM. The conclusions and viewpoints presented in the report are those of the author/authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the SSM.

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1. Background

The need to develop databases for radiation therapy (RT) has increased in recent years. To enable effective research, clinical evaluation, and clinical reporting within the RT community, it is crucial that relevant RT quality indicators are collected in a structured and uniform way. Until now, this work has mainly been done manually leading to laborious efforts in retrieving and combining information from different local data sources. The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority and the Swedish innovation agency Vinnova have, therefore, supported a project concerning national management of RT databases.

2. Databases and quality registries for radiation therapy

The project to create a national RT database solution for Swedish conditions is primarily carried out at Norrlands universitetssjukhus in Umeå and at Akademiska sjukhuset in Uppsala, but other Swedish university hospitals and regional hospitals have also participated. A national reference group with Swedish Radiation Oncology experts (physicians, physicists, and nurses) is linked to the project. The goal of the project is to implement a uniform local database solution at all hospitals delivering RT in Sweden. Relevant quality indicators from each local database will then be exported into a national RT registry located on the same IT platform (INCA) [1] as the Swedish clinical quality registries on cancer.

3. A standardized naming convention

Combining information from separate RT databases on a national scale requires uniform naming of diagnoses, tumour volumes, organs at risk (OARs), normal tissue structures, and other parameters of interest. Another strong motive for a standardized naming convention in Sweden has been the recently opened proton facility, the Skandion Clinic, in Uppsala where all participating university hospitals use the same treatment planning system and the same oncological information system.

This is the second, revised, version of the Swedish standardized naming convention for RT, which is harmonized with available international standards [2, 3]. The national reference group (Chapter 4) has been advisory in this work. It is hoped that all hospitals delivering RT in Sweden will accept and work according to the suggested standard.

4. The national reference group

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5. Naming convention for target volumes

The suggested naming convention for target volumes is based on the recommendations by Santanam *et al.* [2] and the ICRU Report 83 [3]).

Standard name	Type	Comment
GTVT_xx.x(Free text)	Single primary	Suffix _xx.x for prescribed total dose in Gy
GTVT1_R_xx.x(Free text)	Multiple primary	T1, T2, etc.; _R & _L = right & left side
GTVT2_L_xx.x(Free text)		(Free text) or alternatively /Free text
GTVN_xx.x(Free text)	Single nodal	
GTVN1_L_xx.x(Free text)	Multiple nodal	N1, N2, etc.
GTVN2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
GTVM_xx.x (Free text)	Single metastasis	
GTVM1_L_xx.x (Free text)	Multiple metastasis	M1, M2, etc.
GTVM2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
CTVT_xx.x(Free text)	Etc.	
CTVT1_L_xx.x(Free text)		
CTVT2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
CTVN_xx.x(Free text)		
CTVN1_L_xx.x(Free text)		
CTVN2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
CTVM_xx.x (Free text)		
CTVM1_L_xx.x (Free text)		
CTVM2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
IR-CTVT_xx.x(Free text)	Intermediate-risk CTV	Used in brachytherapy
HR-CTVT_xx.x(Free text)	High-risk CTV	Used in brachytherapy
ITVT_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVT1_R_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVT2_L_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVN_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVN1_L_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVN2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVM_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVM1_L_xx.x(Free text)		
ITVM2_R_xx.x(Free text)		
PTVT_xx.x(Free text)		
PTVT1_R_xx.x(Free text)		

PTVT2_L_xx.x(Free text)
PTVN_xx.x(Free text)
PTVN1_L_xx.x(Free text)
PTVN2_R_xx.x(Free text)
PTVM_xx.x(Free text)
PTVM1_L_xx.x (Free text)
PTVM2_R_xx.x(Free text)

6. Naming convention for normal-tissue structures

The suggested naming convention for organs at risk, (OARs) and other normal tissue structures is based on the recommendations by Santanam *et al.*, [2].

Standard names	Description	Swedish translation
A_Brachiocephali_L	Artery Brachiocephalic Left	Arm-huvud artär vänster
A_Brachiocephali_R	Artery Brachiocephalic Right	Arm-huvud artär höger
A_Carotid_L	Artery Carotid Left	Halsartär vänster
A_Carotid_R	Artery Carotid Right	Halsartär höger
A_Coronary	Artery Coronary	Kransartärer
A_CoronaryD_L	Artery Descending Coronary Left	Kransartär nedåttstigande vänster
A_CoronaryD_R	Artery Descending Coronary Right	Kransartär nedåttstigande höger
A_Hypophyseal	Artery Hypophyseal	Hypofysartär
A_Pulmonary	Artery Pulmonary	Lungartär
A_Subclavicular_L	Artery Subclavicular Left	Nyckelbensartär vänster
A_Subclavicular_R	Artery Subclavicular Right	Nyckelbensartär höger
ACJoint	Acromioclavicular Joint	Nyckelbensled
AdrenalGland_L	Adrenal Gland Left	Binjure vänster
AdrenalGland_R	Adrenal Gland Right	Binjure höger
AnalCanal	Anal Canal	Stolgång/ändtarmsöppning
AnalSphincter	Anal Sphincter	Analsfinkter
Aorta	Aorta	Kroppspulsåder
AtrialValve	Atrial Valve	Förmaksklaff
Atrium_L	Atrium Left	Förmak vänster
Atrium_R	Atrium Right	Förmak höger
AuditoryCanal_L	Auditory Canal Left	Hörselgång vänster
AuditoryCanal_R	Auditory Canal Right	Hörselgång höger
Bladder	Bladder	Urinblåsa
BladderWall	Bladder Wall	Urinblåsevägg
BoneMarrow	Bone Marrow	Benmärg
Bowel	Bowel	Tarmar
BowelBag	Bowel Bag, RTOG [4]	Bukhåla
BrachialPlexus_L	Brachial Plexus Left	Armplexus vänster
BrachialPlexus_R	Brachial Plexus Right	Armplexus höger
Brain	Brain	Hjärna
Brain_L	Brain Left	Hjärna vänster

Brain_R	Brain Right	Hjärna höger
BrainStem	Brain Stem	Hjärnstam
Breast_L	Breast Left	Bröst vänster
Breast_R	Breast Right	Bröst höger
BronchialTree	Bronchial Tree	Bronkialträd
BaseOfTongue	Base Of Tongue	Tungbas
Carina	Carina	Carina
CaudaEquina	Cauda Equina	Caudaequina
Cerebellum	Cerebellum	Lillhjärna
Cerebrum_L	Cerebrum Left	Storhjärna vänster
Cerebrum_R	Cerebrum Right	Storhjärna höger
Chiasm	Chiasm	Synnervskorsning
CN_7_L	Cranial Nerve Seventh Left	Facialisnerv vänster
CN_7_R	Cranial Nerve Seventh Right	Facialisnerv höger
CN_8_L	Cranial Nerve Eighth Left	Hörselnerv vänster
CN_8_R	Cranial Nerve Eighth Right	Hörselnerv höger
Cervix	Cervix	Livmoderhals
Cochlea_L	Cochlea Left	Hörselsnäcka vänster
Cochlea_R	Cochlea Right	Hörselsnäcka höger
Colon	Colon	Tjocktarm
ConstrMuscle	Constrictor Muscle	Konstriktormuskulatur
Cornea_L	Cornea Left	Hornhinna vänster
Cornea_R	Cornea Right	Hornhinna höger
Duodenum	Duodenum	Tolvfingertarm
Ear_External_L	Ear External Left	Ytteröra vänster
Ear_External_R	Ear External Right	Ytteröra höger
Ear_Middle_L	Ear Middle Left	Mellanöra vänster
Ear_Middle_R	Ear Middle Right	Mellanöra höger
Esophagus	Esophagus	Matstrupe
Esophagus_Upper	Esophagus Upper	Matstrupe övre
Esophagus_Lower	Esophagus Lower	Matstrupe nedre
Esophagus_Middle	Esophagus Middle	Matstrupe centralt
External / Body	External contour	Ytterkontur
Eye_L	Eye Left	Öga vänster
Eye_R	Eye Right	Öga höger
Femur_L	Femur Left	Lårben vänster
Femur_R	Femur Right	Lårben höger
FemoralHead_L	Femoral Head Left	Lårbenshuvud vänster
FemoralHead_R	Femoral Head Right	Lårbenshuvud höger
FemoralJoint_L	Femoral Joint Left	Höftled vänster
FemoralJoint_R	Femoral Joint Right	Höftled Höger

Fibula_L	Fibula Left	Vadben vänster
Fibula_R	Fibula Right	Vadben höger
FrontalLobe_L	Frontal Lobe Left	Frontallob vänster
FrontalLobe_R	Frontal Lobe Right	Frontallob höger
Gallbladder	Gallbladder	Gallblåsa
Genitalia	Genitalia	Genitalia
GHJoint	Glenohumeral Joint	Axelled
Glottis	Glottis	Glottis
GreatVessel	Great Vessel	Stora kärl
Heart	Heart	Hjärta
Hippocampus_L	Hippocampus Left	Hippocampus vänster
Hippocampus_R	Hippocampus Right	Hippocampus höger
Humerus_L	Humerus Left	Överarmsben vänster
Humerus_R	Humerus Right	Överarmsben höger
Hypothalamus_L	Hypothalamus Left	Hypotalamus vänster
Hypothalamus_R	Hypothalamus Right	Hypotalamus höger
Ileum	Ileum	Ileum/Krumtarm
Implant	Implant	Implantat
Infratentorial	Infratentorial	Infratentoriellt
Jejunum	Jejunum	Jejunum
Kidney_L	Kidney Left	Njure vänster
Kidney_R	Kidney Right	Njure höger
Larynx	Larynx	Struphuvud
LacrimalGland_L	Lacrimal Gland Left	Tårkörtel vänster
LacrimalGland_R	Lacrimal Gland Right	Tårkörtel höger
Lens_L	Lens Eye Left	Lins vänster
Lens_R	Lens Eye Right	Lins höger
Lips	Lips	Läppar
Liver	Liver	Lever
Lung_L	Lung Left	Lunga vänster
Lung_R	Lung Right	Lunga höger
LungTotal	Lungs Left plus Right	Lunga vänster + höger
MainBronchus	Main Bronchus	Huvudbronk
MainBronchus_L	Main Bronchus Left	Huvud bronk vänster
MainBronchus_R	Main Bronchus Right	Huvud bronk höger
Mandible	Mandible	Underkäke
MassMuscle_L	Masseter Muscle Left	Tuggmuskel vänster
MassMuscle_R	Masseter Muscle Right	Tuggmuskel höger
Mediastinum	Mediastinum	Mediastinum
MedullaOblongata	Medulla Oblongata	Förlängda märgen
MitralValve	Mitral Valve	Mitralisklaffen

Muscle	Muscle	Muskel
OccipitalLobe_L	Occipital Lobe Left	Nacklob vänster
OccipitalLobe_R	Occipital Lobe Right	Nacklob höger
OpticNerve_L	Optic Nerve Left	Synnerv vänster
OpticNerve_R	Optic Nerve Right	Synnerv höger
OralCavity	Oral Cavity	Munhåla
Ovary_L	Ovary Left	Äggstock vänster
Ovary_R	Ovary Right	Äggstock höger
Pacemaker	Pacemaker	Pacemaker
Parametrium_L	Parametrium Left	Parametrium vänster
Parametrium_R	Parametrium Right	Parametrium höger
ParietalLobe_L	Parietal Lobe Left	Hjässlob vänster
ParietalLobe_R	Parietal Lobe Right	Hjässlob höger
Pancreas	Pancreas	Bukspottskörtel
Parotid_L	Parotid Left	Öronspottkörtel vänster
Parotid_R	Parotid Right	Öronspottkörtel höger
PelvicBones	Pelvic Bones	Bäckenben
PenileBulb	Penile Bulb	Penisbulben
Penis	Penis	Penis
Pericardium	Pericardium	Hjärtsäck
Perineum	Perineum	Mellangård
Peritoneum	Peritoneum	Bukhinna
Pharynx	Pharynx	Svalg
PharynxConst	Pharynx Constrictor	Svalgkonstriktor
Pituitary	Pituitary	Hypofys
Pons	Pons	Hjärnbrygga
Prostate	Prostate	Prostata
PubicSymphysis	Pubic Symphysis	Blygdbensfog
PulmonalValve	Pulmonal Valve	Pulmonalisklaff
Radius	Radius	Strålben
Rectum	Rectum	Ändtarm
RectalWall	Rectal Wall	Ändtarmsvägg
Retina_L	Retina Left	Näthinna vänster
Retina_R	Retina Right	Näthinna höger
Rib	Rib	Revben
Sacrum	Sacrum	Korsben
SalivaryGland_L	Salivary Gland Left	Spottkörtel vänster
SalivaryGland_R	Salivary Gland Right	Spottkörtel höger
Scalp	Scalp	Hårbotten
SeminalVesicle_L	Seminal Vesicle Left	Sädesblåsa vänster
SeminalVesicle_R	Seminal Vesicle Right	Sädesblåsa höger

Sigmoid	Sigmoid	Sigmoideum
Skin	Skin	Hud
Skull	Skull	Kranium
SmallBowel	Small Bowel	Tunntarm
SpinalCanal	Spinal Canal	Ryggradskanalen/Ryggmärgskanalen
SpinalCord	Spinal Cord	Ryggmärg
Spleen	Spleen	Mjälte
Stomach	Stomach	Magsäck
Submandibular_L	Submandibular Gland Left	Underkäkspottkörtel vänster
Submandibular_R	Submandibular Gland Right	Underkäkspottkörtel höger
Supertentorial	Supertentorial	Supratentoriellt
TemporalLobe_L	Temporal Lobe Left	Tinningslog vänster
TemporalLobe_R	Temporal Lobe Right	Tinningslob höger
Testis_L	Testis Left	Testikel vänster
Testis_R	Testis Right	Testikel höger
ThoracicWall	Thoracic Wall	Bröstkorgsvägg
Thyroid	Thyroid	Sköldkörtel
Tibia_L	Tibia Left	Skenben vänster
Tibia_R	Tibia Right	Skenben höger
TMJoint	Temperomandibular Joint	Käkled
Trachea	Trachea	Luftstrupen
TricuspidalValve	Tricuspidal Valve	Tresegelklaff
Tongue	Tongue	Tunga
Ulna	Ulna	Armbågsben
Urethra	Urethra	Urinrör
Uterus	Uterus	Livmoder
V_Azygos	Vein Azygos	Azygosven
V_CavalInferior	Vena Cava Inferior	Hålven nedre
V_CavaSuperior	Vena Cava Superior	Hålven övre
V_Iliac	Vein Iliac	Tarmvenen
V_Pulmonary	Vein Pulmonary	Lungven
V_SubClav	Vein SubClavicular	Nyckelbensvenen
Vagina	Vagina	Slida
ValvularPlane	Valvular Plane	Klaffplanet
VB_Cervical	Vertebrae Cervical	Halskotor
VB_Thoracic	Vertebrae Thoracic	Bröstkotor
VB_Lumbar	Vertebrae Lumbar	Ländkotor
Ventricle	Ventricle Cardiac	Kammare (hjärta)
Vessels	Vessels	Kärl
Vulva	Vulva	Vulva

7. Explanations and examples

7.1. General rules

No whitespaces are used in the suggested naming conventions, including parentheses or slash for free text.

(Free text) or /Free text: Free text is written within parenthesis or after slash following the suggested standard name in question and may be omitted. Free text will not be transferred into the national RT registry. It can include additional information such as imaging details, delineation at a certain radiation dose, or a signature.

For treatment planning system with a limited number of structure name characters (e.g. 16-character-limit in EclipseTM by Varian[®]), the suggested naming convention may be truncated as described in the examples below (7.3, PRVs).

7.2. Target volumes

T, N, and M: T denotes primary tumour, N denotes node, and M denotes metastasis and should be stated when applicable. For example, T, N, and M can be omitted for structures including both a primary tumour and nodal engagement.

Numbering: Indicating numbers is optional, i.e. T1 and N1 can be denoted as only T and N. There are no specific requirements for the ordering of numbers. Target volumes (e.g. PTV) including one or more additional target volumes (ITV, CTV, or GTV) do not need to have consistent numbering between volumes.

Dose ”_xx.x”: Denotes total prescribed dose in Gy and can be omitted. The prescribed dose can be rounded to integers “_xx”. Since the prescription dose is decided before treatment start, this number refers to the planned dose, which may be changed during the course of the treatment. Therefore, it is understood that this number will not always reflect the delivered dose.

Right-Left ”_R, _L”: Denotes laterality for target volumes and should be stated when appropriate. Right-left is typically used for certain cancers located in paired organs or structures. Examples are breast cancer, nodal stations for head and neck cancer, lung cancer, kidney cancer, etc.

Use of (Free text) or /Free text: Free text written within parenthesis or after slash following the suggested standard name can be used or omitted for target volumes.

Ex 1: CTVN1_R_50.4(PETverified,0Gy,YZ) or alternatively
CTVN1_R_50.4/PETverified,0Gy,YZ

Denotes a right-sided lymphatic gland target volume which is prescribed 50.4 Gy and which has been defined based on a PET examination before start of treatment (0 Gy) by physician YZ. To use the minimum number of characters for this same target volume, the description should be CTVN given that there is only one nodal target volume.

Ex 2: GTVT_xx.x(MIP) and CTVT_xx.x(MIP) or alternatively GTVT_xx.x/MIP and
CTVT_xx.x/MIP

Shows how free text can be used to indicate target volumes based on 4D-CT.

7.3. Normal tissue structures

Right-Left ”_R, _L” denotes laterality in the same way as for target volumes.

Use of (Free text) or /Free text: Free text written within parenthesis or after slash following the suggested standard name can be used or omitted for normal-tissue structures similarly as for target volumes.

PRV (Planning organ-at-risk volume): A PRV is denoted with PRV_OARname.

Ex 1: PRV_BrainStem	13 characters	
Ex 2a: PRV_Esophagus_Middle	20 characters!	Outside the Eclipse limit Truncated Eclipse alternative
Ex 2b: PRV_Esophagus_Mi	16 characters	
Ex 3a: PRV_SalivaryGland_L	19 characters!	Outside the Eclipse limit Truncated Eclipse alternative
Ex 3b: PRV_SalivaryGl_L	16 characters	

7.4. Help structures

Help structures are denoted with Z_name where name includes any suitable free text. Help structures will not be transferred into the RT registry.

Ex 1: Z_CTVN2
Ex 2: Z_Optimization

8. References

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The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority has a comprehensive responsibility to ensure that society is safe from the effects of radiation. The Authority works to achieve radiation safety in a number of areas: nuclear power, medical care as well as commercial products and services. The Authority also works to achieve protection from natural radiation and to increase the level of radiation safety internationally.

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority works proactively and preventively to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation, now and in the future. The Authority issues regulations and supervises compliance, while also supporting research, providing training and information, and issuing advice. Often, activities involving radiation require licences issued by the Authority. The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority maintains emergency preparedness around the clock with the aim of limiting the aftermath of radiation accidents and the unintentional spreading of radioactive substances. The Authority participates in international co-operation in order to promote radiation safety and finances projects aiming to raise the level of radiation safety in certain Eastern European countries.

The Authority reports to the Ministry of the Environment and has around 300 employees with competencies in the fields of engineering, natural and behavioural sciences, law, economics and communications. We have received quality, environmental and working environment certification.

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