LMI-14. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF 3-D RADIOTHERAPY TRAINING IN AFRICA WITH A FOCUS ON PAEDIATRIC NEURO-ONCOLOGY
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Access to radiotherapy machines, and appropriately trained staff remains a problem in Africa. In particular, Paediatric radiotherapy and Neuro-Oncology are problematic as treatments are complex, and technique alters outcome. The University of Cape Town, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Varian Medical Systems collaborated to develop a training platform aimed at the specific needs of Africa. In order to evaluate this training course, all participants completed a pre-course and post-course survey and were invited to comment on all modules. A total of 21 participants attended the "dry run" and first course in 2015. 33% of participants had <3 years and 48% between 3 and 10 years of clinical experience prior to the course. 30% had no prior 3-D planning experience, 45% had some 3-D experience and 25% indicated regular use of 3-D planning equipment. After the dry run evaluation, there was a strong recommendation for additional time for practical planning and for all staff categories to attend equipment procurement sessions. 80% of candidates felt that they had improved their knowledge, however additional neuro-anatomy teaching and neuro-contouring was requested. In the second course physics and clinical were integrated into a combined team 3 week course. After the course, a 25% improvement was noted in familiarity with immobilisation devices. Imaging and localisation improved by 41% and 3-D planning familiarity improved by 30%. There was 85% strong agreement in the relevance of neuro planning. Key challenges identified by participants were existing hierarchical structures, implementing team work and financial constraints in their home countries.