Celebrating Our True Colors

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As the year draws to a close, it is common for many of us to reflect on the relationships that shape the ebb and flow of our daily lives, especially at home and in the workplace. Both a congested store overflowing with anxious holiday shoppers and a busy and complex radiation oncology department are reliable case studies for evaluating a range of human behaviors, especially in response to stress.

On either stage, emotional intelligence—with domains in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management—plays an integral role in how we behave, influencing many factors such as interpersonal relationships and professional burnout. In this month's *Applied Radiation Oncology*, the authors of *Personality Mapping and Emotional Intelligence Education in Radiation Oncology* demonstrate how the True Colors framework can be used within the workplace to cultivate emotional intelligence and team awareness. Implementation of the tool in the radiation oncology department of their comprehensive cancer center facilitated department-wide discussions on communication preferences and interpersonal styles, which build and maintain relationships.

The initiative not only enhanced awareness of emotional intelligence but also influenced departmental structure, including the creation of a new leadership role. Such work reinforces that high-quality cancer care is built upon both technical precision and the human competencies that sustain collaboration.

In *Using an Auto-planned VMAT-TBI Technique for Myeloablative Autologous HSCT for Scleroderma*, Hui et al demonstrate how automated VMAT-TBI was able to meet stringent organ-sparing requirements in the STAT-2 trial while reducing toxicities and eliminating the practical burdens of conventional block-based techniques. Their work illustrates the growing feasibility of highly conformal, script-based TBI planning, even within the narrow therapeutic window required for patients with scleroderma.

A similarly patient-centered focus characterizes *Treatment of Stage IIB Seminoma in a Patient with Down Syndrome with Eisenmenger Syndrome: A Case Report*, which highlights the complexity of balancing oncologic efficacy with cardiopulmonary risk in a population rarely represented in clinical trials. The authors demonstrate that conventional-dose dog-leg radiation therapy can achieve a complete response with minimal toxicity in a patient for whom chemotherapy posed unacceptable risk. Beyond its clinical relevance, the case reminds us that radiation therapy can be the safest curative modality when systemic options are limited.

From individualized case management to population-level prognostication, the study *Impact of Integrated Pathologic Score on Treatment Outcomes for Borderline Resectable Pancreatic Cancer* evaluates the IPSCAP score in patients treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy and 5-fraction SBRT followed by resection. IPSCAP proved a robust predictor of overall survival across chemotherapy regimens, with lower scores correlating strongly with improved outcomes. Notably, patients receiving ≥45 Gy SBRT were more likely to achieve favorable pathologic responses. These findings highlight the promise of composite, post-treatment scoring systems to better stratify risk and refine future treatment strategies in a disease historically marked by therapeutic resistance.

As always, I thank you for being part of the *Applied Radiation Oncology* community. We wish you a joyful holiday season and a New Year filled with peace, hope, health, and continued learning!

https://doi.org/10.37549/ARO-D-25-0058