



FONDAZIONE SALVATORE MAUGERI  
CLINICA DEL LAVORO E DELLA RIABILITAZIONE  
I.R.C.C.S.

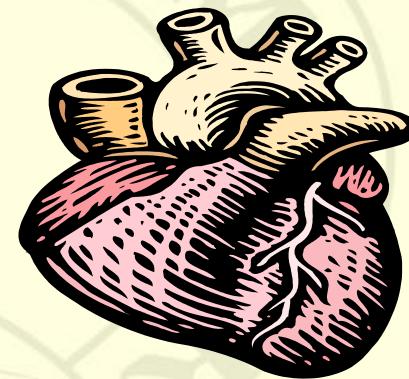
# Danni cardiaci da radioterapia: problema attuale o ricordo di un'epoca passata?





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## **Il cuore è un organo radioresistente:**



**E' però ormai accertato che l'irradiazione completa o parziale del cuore può provocare un ampio spettro di malattie cardiovascolari**



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# Main conditions for radiation-related heart disease

Pericarditis

Pericardial fibrosis

Valvular disease



Myocardial fibrosis

Coronary artery Disease

(chronic ischemia  
angina pectoris  
myocardial infarction)

# RT e Tossicità cardiovascolare

## ► Miocardio

- ◆ Fibrosi interstiziale diffusa
- ◆ Ischemia del microcircolo
- ◆ Alterazioni della conduzione

## ► Pericardio

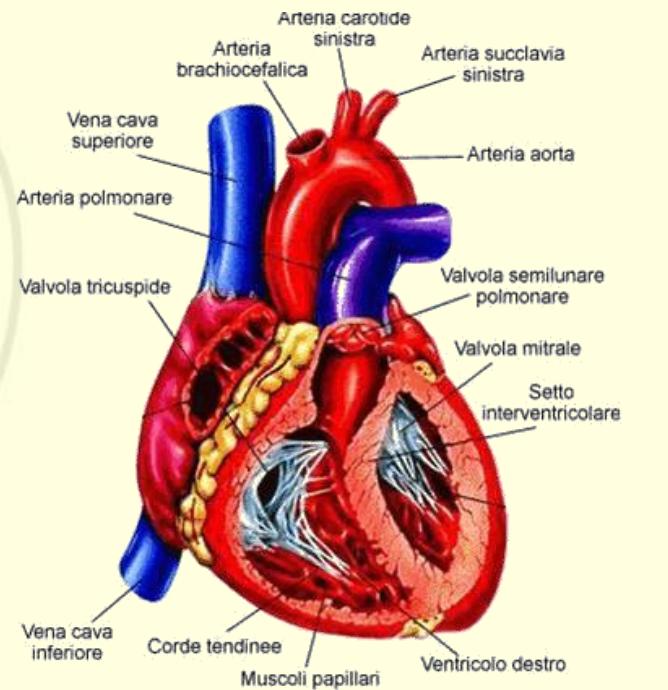
- ◆ Danno vascolare e aumentata permeabilità
- ◆ Essudato / Ispessimento pericardico

## ► Valvole

- ◆ Fibrosi a eziologia ignota

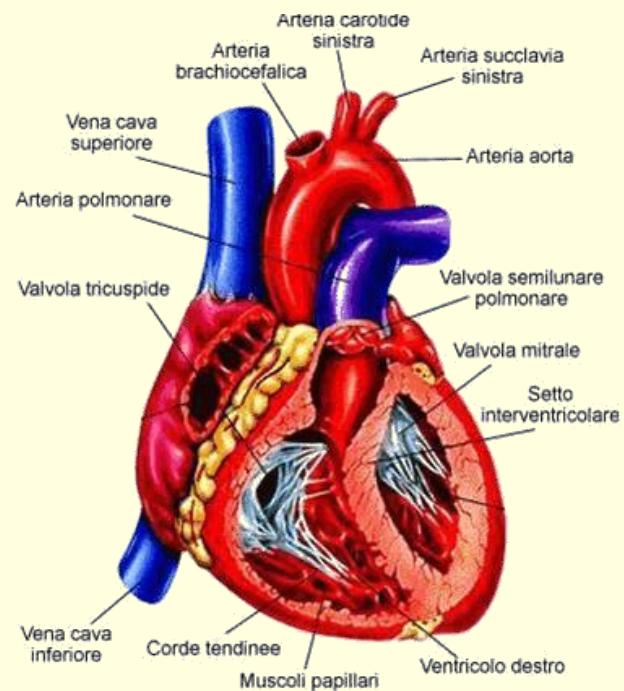
## ► Coronarie

- ◆ Restringimento prossimale dei vasi con riduzione della muscolare media e ispessimento fibrotico
- ◆ Iperplasia intima, trombi, deposito lipidico



# RT e Tossicità cardiovascolare

- 1 Radiation-induced pericarditis may occur if a large proportion of the heart ( $>30\%$ ) receives a dose of  $>50$  Gy. The mean latency is approximately 1 year
- 2 Radiation-induced myocardial damage may be diagnosed at lower mean doses to the heart. The mean latency is  $>5$  years
- 3 The risk of radiation-induced cardiovascular disease begins to increase 10 years after irradiation and is progressive with time. A significant increase of risk of cardiovascular disease has been observed after mean heart doses lower than 10% of the generally accepted tolerance dose to the heart of 40–50 Gy fractionated exposure



## RT e Tossicità cardiovascolare

► Rutqvist et al. IJROBP '92

≈ 960 pz. (1971-76) Trattamento radiante sulla parete toracica + linfonodi loco-regionali

≈ Rischio di morte per tossicità cardiaca aumentato di 3 volte nei soggetti con maggiore volume irradiato rispetto ai controlli

► Gyenes et al. Rad Oncol '98

≈ Persistenza del rischio nel tempo rispetto ai controlli

≈ Incremento del rischio di decessi cardiaci di 2 volte (2.5 volte per rischio di infarto miocardico)

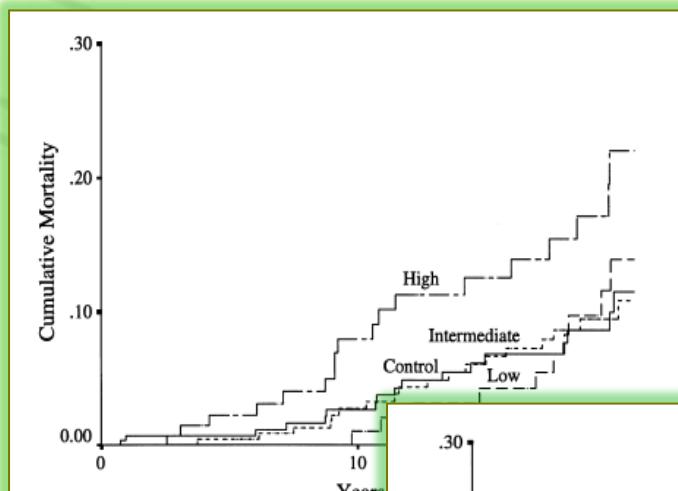


Fig. 2. Cumulative cardiovascular mortality in subgroups according to cardiac dose-volumes

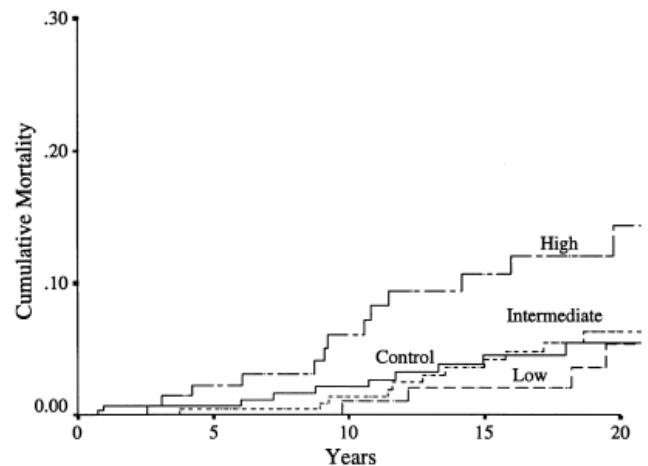


Fig. 3. Cumulative mortality rates due to ischemic heart disease in the different patient subgroups according to cardiac dose-volumes.



## RT e Tossicità cardiovascolare

► **Rutqvist '90; Cuzick '94; EBCTCG '95;  
Paszat '98**

≈ Incremento del rischio di cardiotossicità con RT post-mastectomia

≈ Riduzione della mortalità legata alla malattia, ma incremento di quella cardiaca

► **NSABP-06 '95; DBCCG '99; Whelan '00**

≈ Studi con tecniche di irradiazione più recenti evidenziano una riduzione della mortalità

► **Nixon '98; Gagliardi '01**

≈ Irradiazione dopo chirurgia conservativa: tossicità sensibilmente inferiore  
(*Vol. ventricolo sinistro irradiato: 0-5%*)

► **Rutqvist '98**

≈ 684 pz. (1976-87) chir. conservativa + RT: no differenze in rischio di IMA e morte per cardiotossicità rispetto a gruppo di controllo (*RR: 0.6 e 0.4, rispettivamente*)

**Impatto dell'età, della lateralità della irradiazione  
e dei volumi di trattamento**



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# Background

**Il danno cardiaco è stato soprattutto studiato in pazienti trattati per:**

- ❖ **Linfoma di Hodgkin**
- ❖ **Carcinoma mammario**



**PROGNOSI MIGLIORE → MAGGIORE FOLLOW-UP**

- ❖ **Neoplasie polmonari, esofagee, timomi**
- ❖ **Irradiazione mediastinica per Seminoma**

# Conflicting and confounding studies

Dose-volume

RT field

Comorbidities  
Diabetes,  
Hypertension

Length of Follow-up

Orthovoltage energy

Patient age

Smoking

Fraction size



Different techniques

# Conflicting and confounding studies

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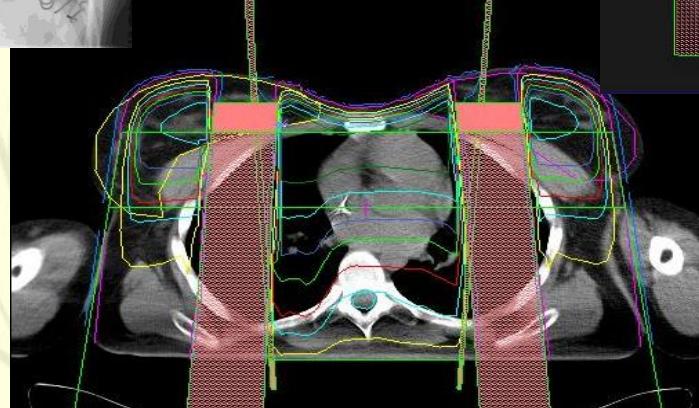
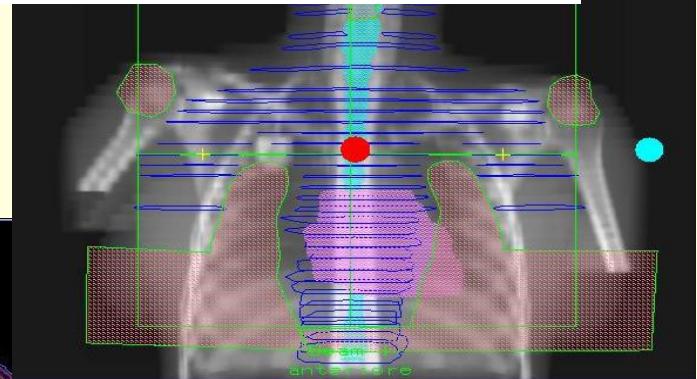
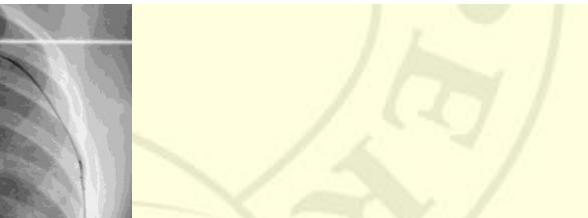
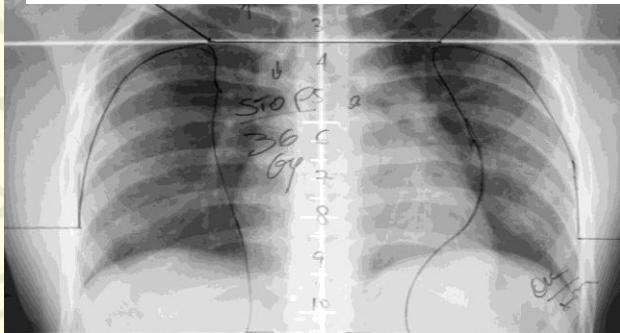
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## Linfoma di Hodgkin – Fattore età

# Relazione inversamente proporzionale tra l'età al trattamento ed il rischio di RIHD

THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE FOR PATIENTS TREATED  
WITH CURATIVE RADIOTHERAPY FOR HODGKIN'S DISEASE:  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXPERIENCE

CHUNG K. K. LEE, M.D.,\* DOROTHEE AEPPLI, PH.D.,† AND MARY E. NIERENGARTEN, M.A.\*



By age,  
patients diagnosed at  
 $\leq 18$  years were 44  
times more likely to die  
of a cardiovascular  
problem than the  
general population.



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## Effetto dell'età al momento della RT sul rischio di IMA dopo trattamento per LH

Età	O/A	RR	95%CI
10-19	6	44.7	18.0-93.0
20-29	8	7.3	3.4-13.8
30-39	23	5.1	2.9-7.4
40-49	9	3.0	1.4-5.5
> 50	12	1.8	1.0-3.0



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# Conflicting and confounding studies

Dose-volume

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Comorbidities  
Diabetes,  
Hypertension

## Length of Follow-up



Orthovoltage energy

Patient age

Smoking

Different techniques

Fraction size

**CRITICAL REVIEW**

**RADIATION-INDUCED CARDIAC TOXICITY AFTER THERAPY FOR BREAST CANCER: INTERACTION BETWEEN TREATMENT ERA AND FOLLOW-UP DURATION**

SENEM DEMIRCI, M.D., \*† JIHO NAM, M.D., ‡ JESSICA L. HUBBS, M.S., ‡ THU NGUYEN, B.A., §  
AND LAWRENCE B. MARKS, M.D. †‡

Io ho un follow-up più lungo

Io sto attento al cuore!





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## Late cardiac mortality in 661 pts (1977-1994) med FU 12 years: increase at 20 years

Table 3. Cumulative Hazard Risk of Cardiac Death

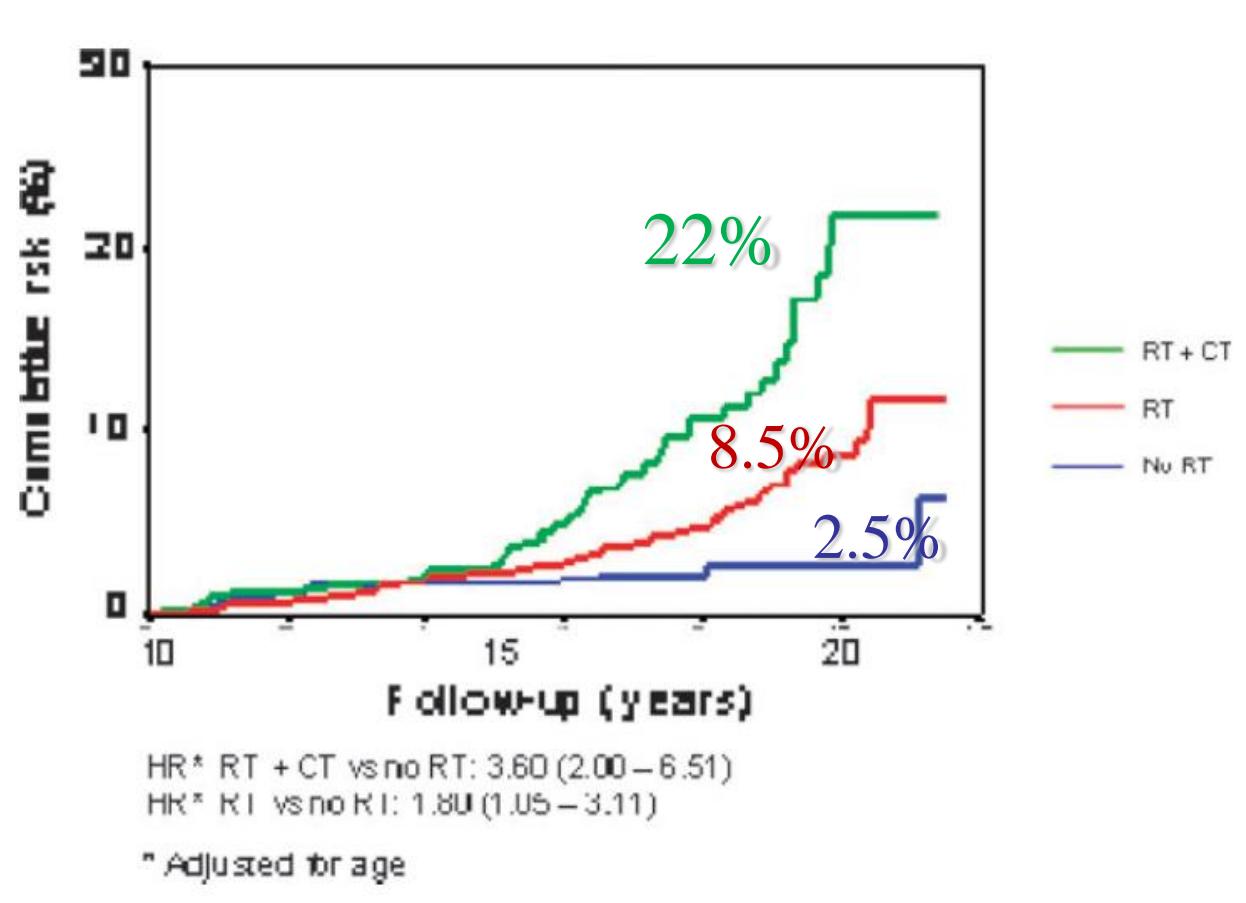
Years After Radiation	Right Sided		Left Sided	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
5	0.09	0.03 to 2.4	0.09	0.03 to 2.4
10	1.5	0.07 to 3.4	1.9	0.09 to 3.9
15	2.9	1.4 to 5.8	4.4	2.5 to 7.5
20	3.6	1.8 to 7.2	6.4	3.5 to 11.5



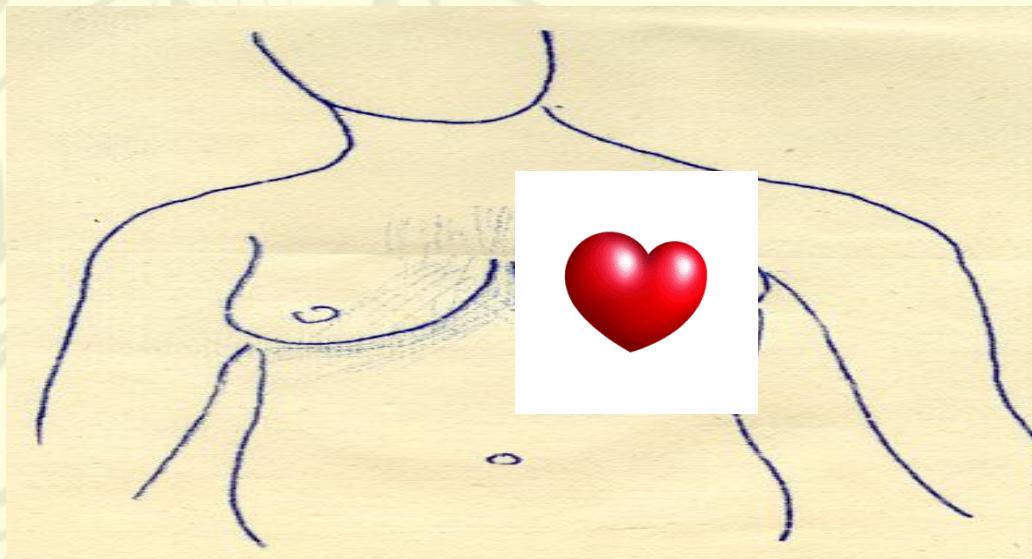
Dalla 2° decade incremento della mortalità cardiaca

(Harris, 2006)

# Rate of cardiac events 20 years after adjuvant treatment



## No association of laterality and HD recently



SEER: 1986-1993, no difference for any heart disease (Patt 2008)

SEER: 1992-2000, no significant association between RT and MI or the combined MI /ischemia

**MI risk was higher in elderly, in pre-existing risk factors or other heart diseases**

# **Long-term mortality from heart disease and lung cancer after radiotherapy for early breast cancer: prospective cohort study of about 300 000 women in US SEER cancer registries**

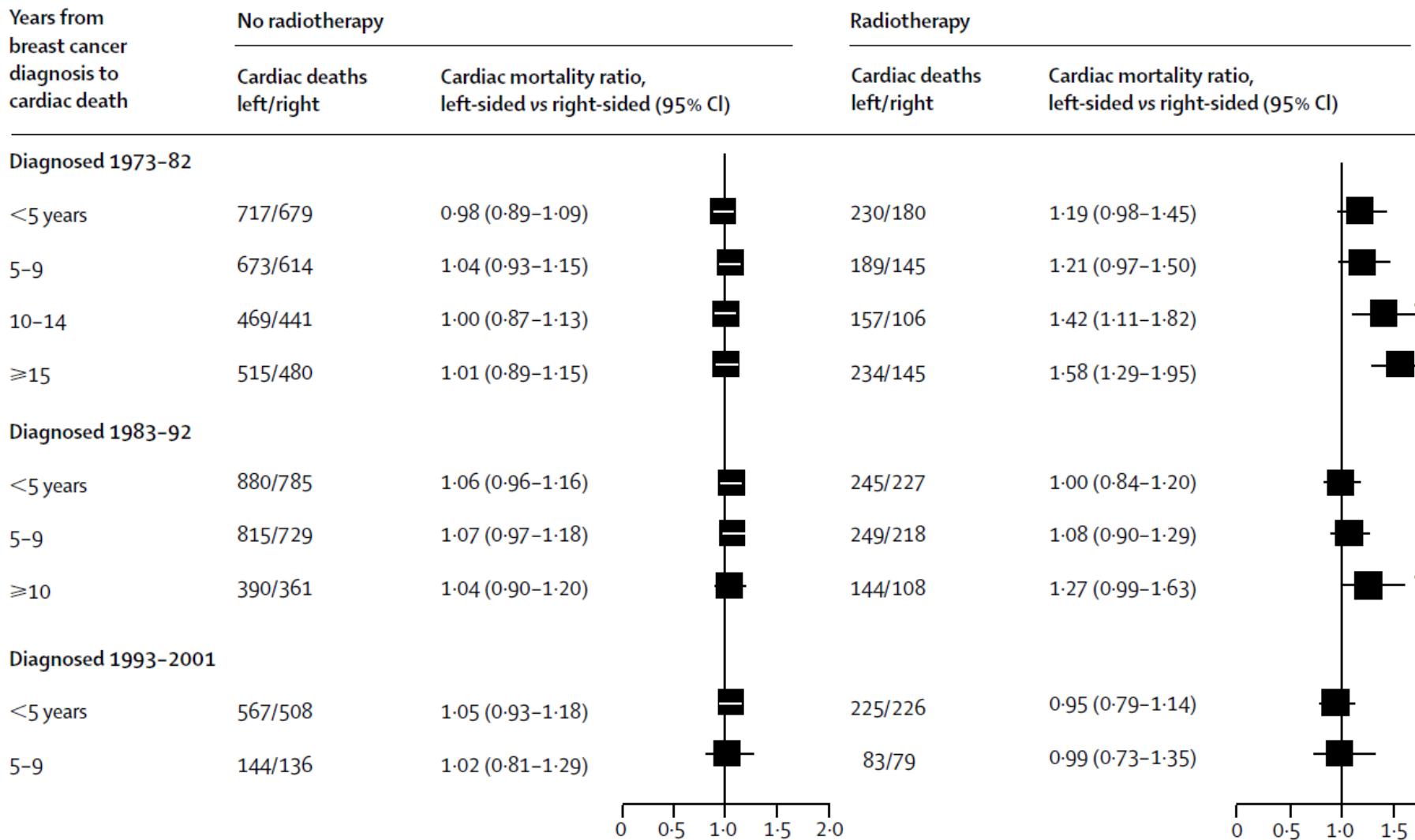
*Sarah C Darby, Paul McGale, Carolyn W Taylor, Richard Peto*

## **Mortality from heart disease in 300 000 women with early breast cancer in the US SEER Cancer Registries**

- 308 861 US women with breast cancer 1973-2001, followed until 1 Jan 2002
- 37% irradiated
- Analyses stratified for age, year of diagnosis, time since diagnosis and race

# Long-term mortality from heart disease and lung cancer after radiotherapy for early breast cancer: prospective cohort study of about 300 000 women in US SEER cancer registries

Sarah C Darby, Paul McGale, Carolyn W Taylor, Richard Peto





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## Tasso di mortalità cardiaca (sinistra/destra)

1973-82: **1.20 < 10 yrs**

**1.42 10-14 yrs**

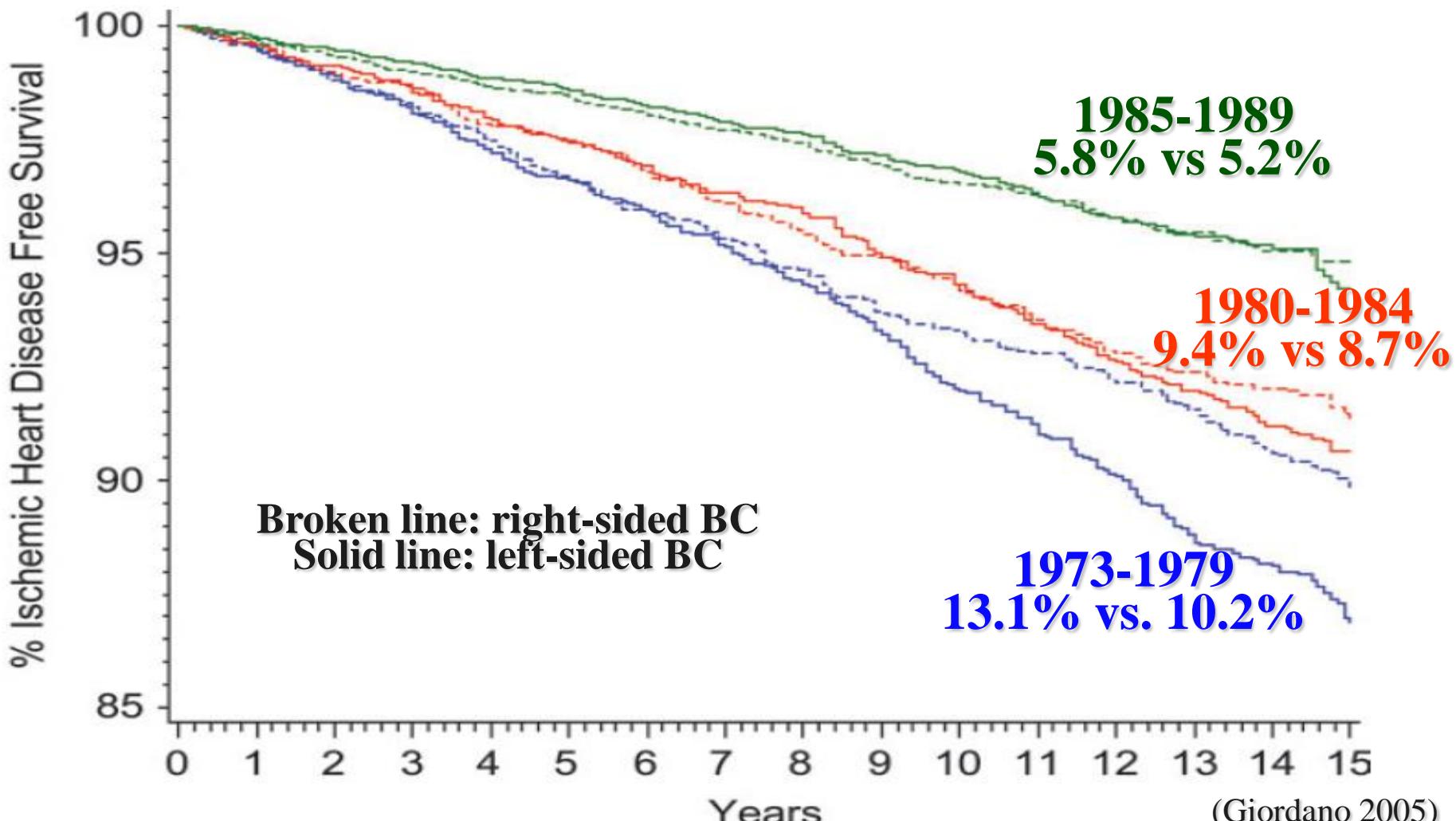
**1.58 15 yrs and more**

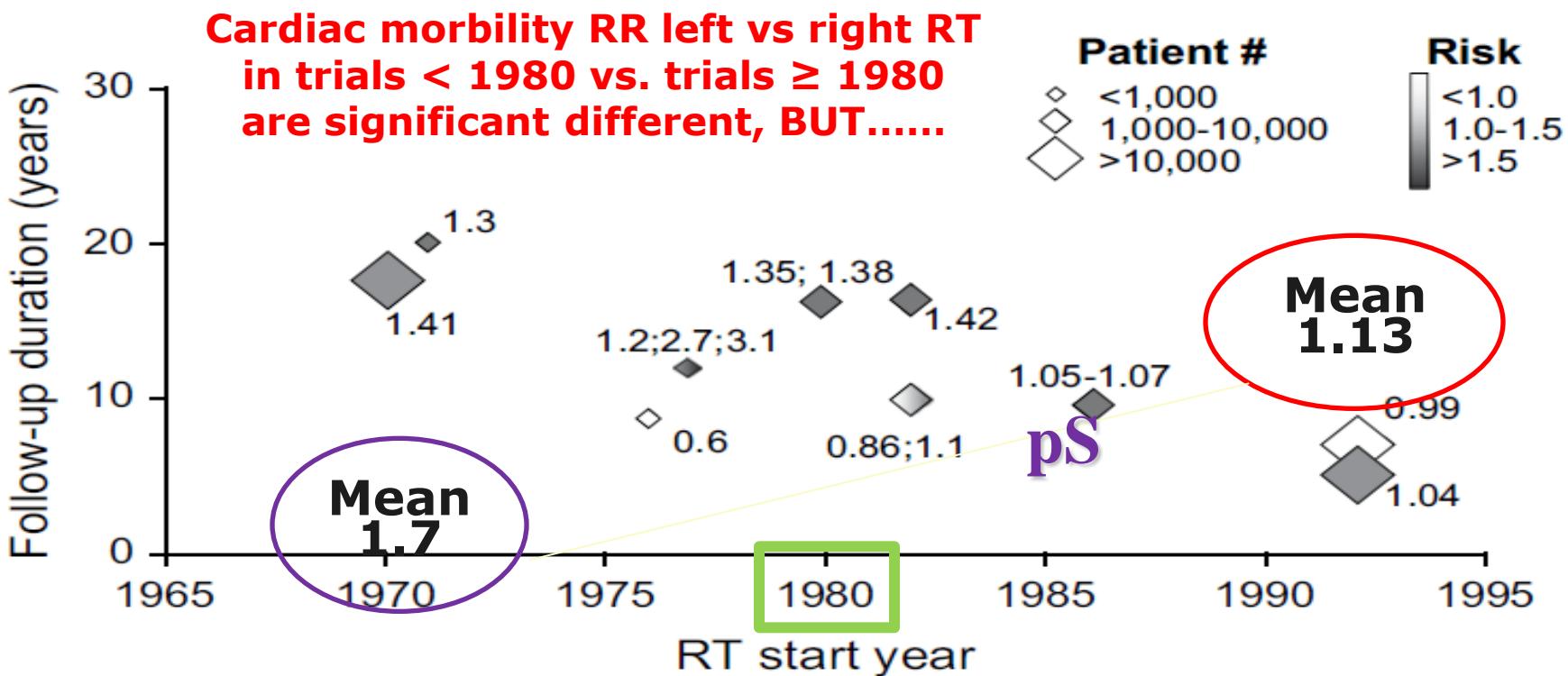
1983-92 **1.04 < 10 yrs**

**1.27 10 yrs and more**

1993-2001 **0.98 < 10 yrs**

**Ischemic heart disease left vs. right RT:  
for each successive year 1979-1988  
the HR decreased by 6%**





All trials with a median FU > 10 years reported excess cardiac morbility risk, regardless of the trial start year

All modern trials, ususally with a shorter FU (< 10 years), did not report excess toxicity risk: need more FU

# Conflicting and confounding studies

## Dose-volume

RT field

Comorbidities  
Diabetes,  
Hypertension

Length of Follow-up

Orthovoltage energy

Patient age

Smoking

Fraction size

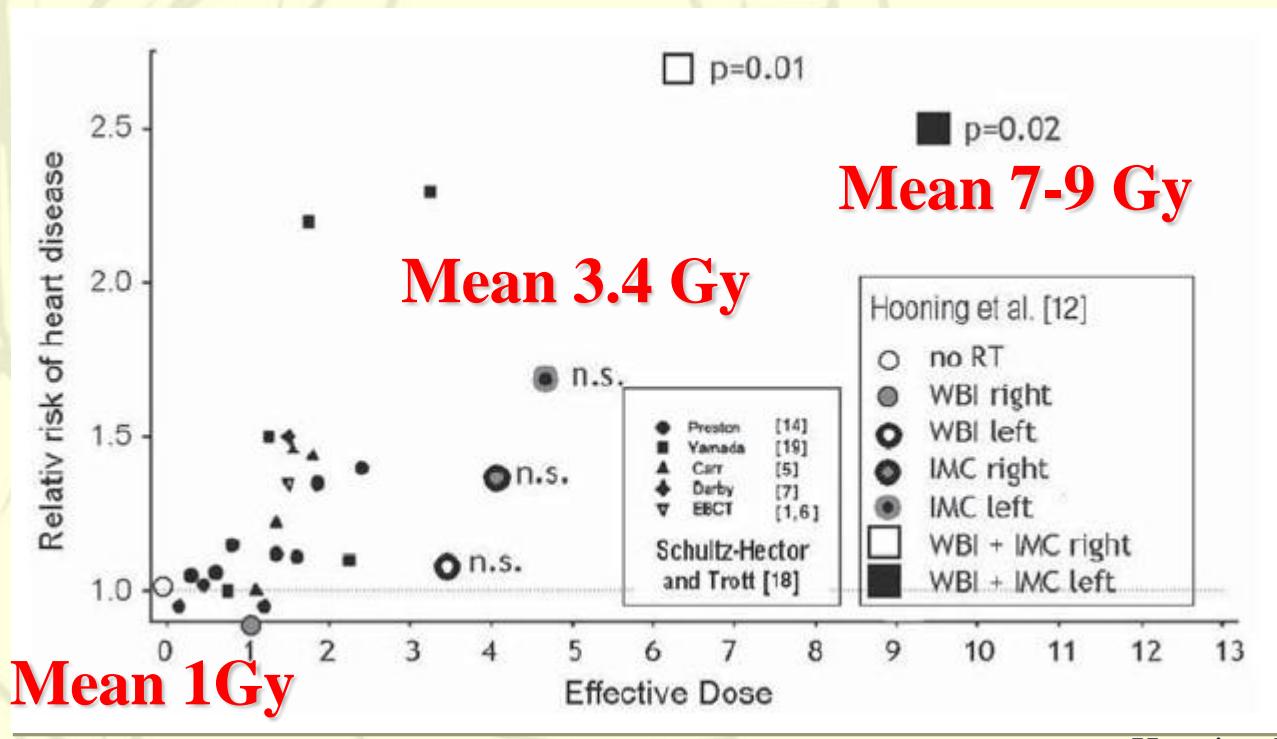
Different techniques



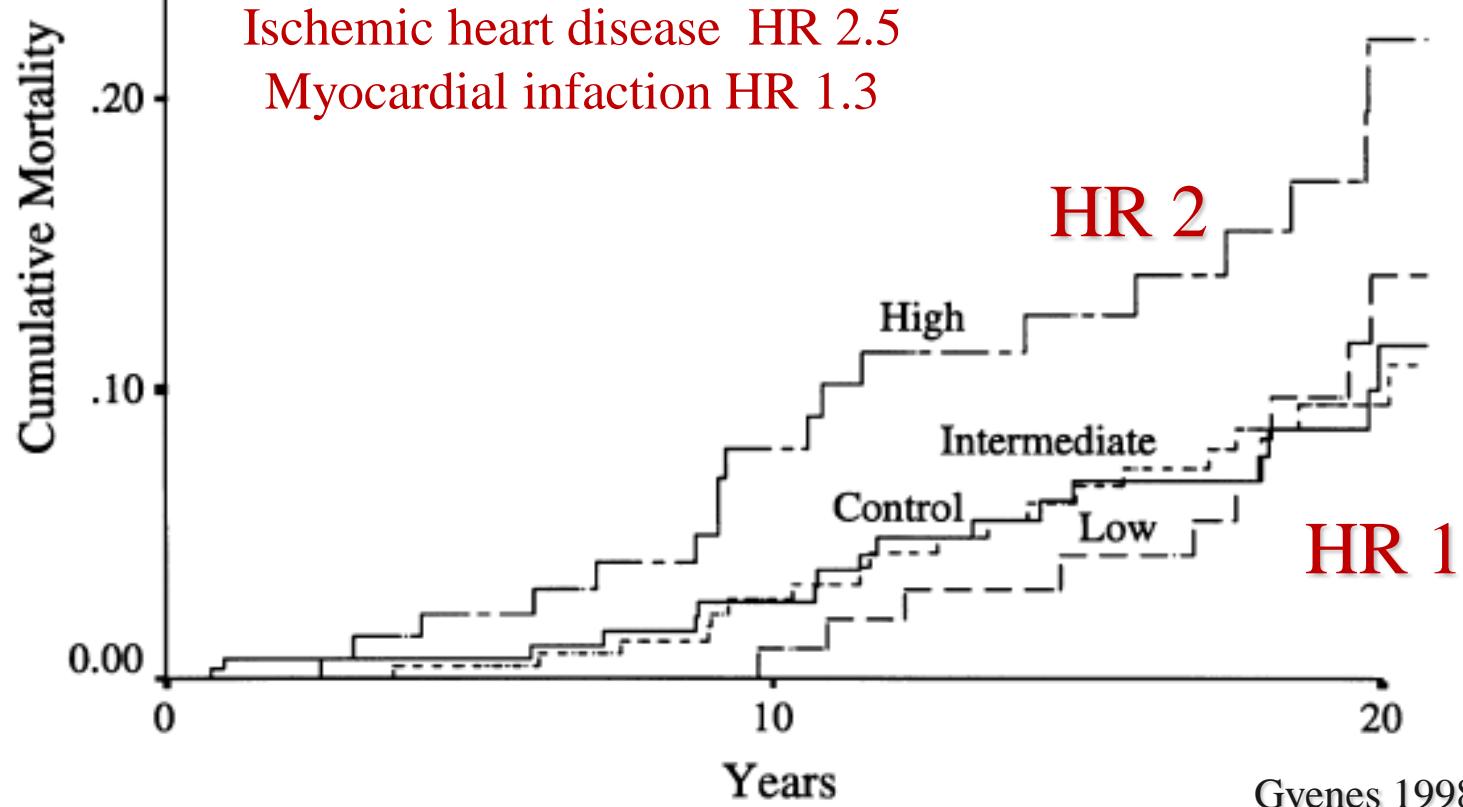


# FONDAZIONE SALVATORE MAUGERI CLINICA DEL LAVORO E DELLA RIABILITAZIONE I.R.C.S.

# The risk of radiation -induced heart disease starts to increase at a mean heart dose of **4 Gy**



## Excess risk mortality correlated with cardiac dose-volume



## Reduction in dose to cardiac structures from left tangential radiotherapy

Year	Mean dose (Gy)			
	Heart	Left anterior descending artery	Right coronary artery	Circumflex coronary artery
1970s	13.3	31.8	9.1	6.9
1980s	4.7	21.9	2.0	2.8
2006 UK	2.3	7.6	2.0	1.2

Information supplied by C.Taylor

# a) Left tangential irradiation

%  
100  
50  
10  
5

Left anterior  
descending  
coronary artery

av. mean dose  
7.6 Gy

Av mean heart  
dose 2.3 Gy (range 1.4-4.4 Gy)

Av. mean  
dose 2 Gy

Av mean  
dose 1.8 Gy

Right coronary artery

Circumflex coronary artery

Taylor, 2008

b) Right tangential irradiation

Left anterior  
descending  
coronary  
artery

%  
100  
50  
10  
5

Av. mean  
dose 1.6 Gy

Av.mean heart  
dose 1.5 Gy

Av .mean  
dose 2 Gy

Av. Mean  
dose 1.2 Gy

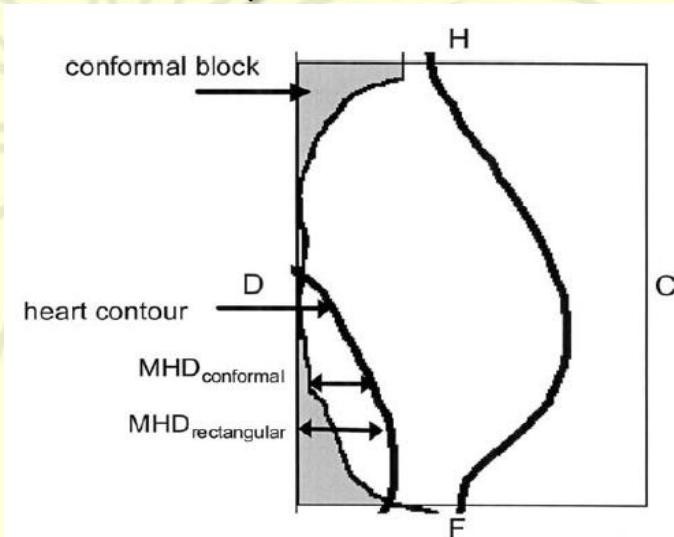
Right coronary artery

Circumflex coronary artery

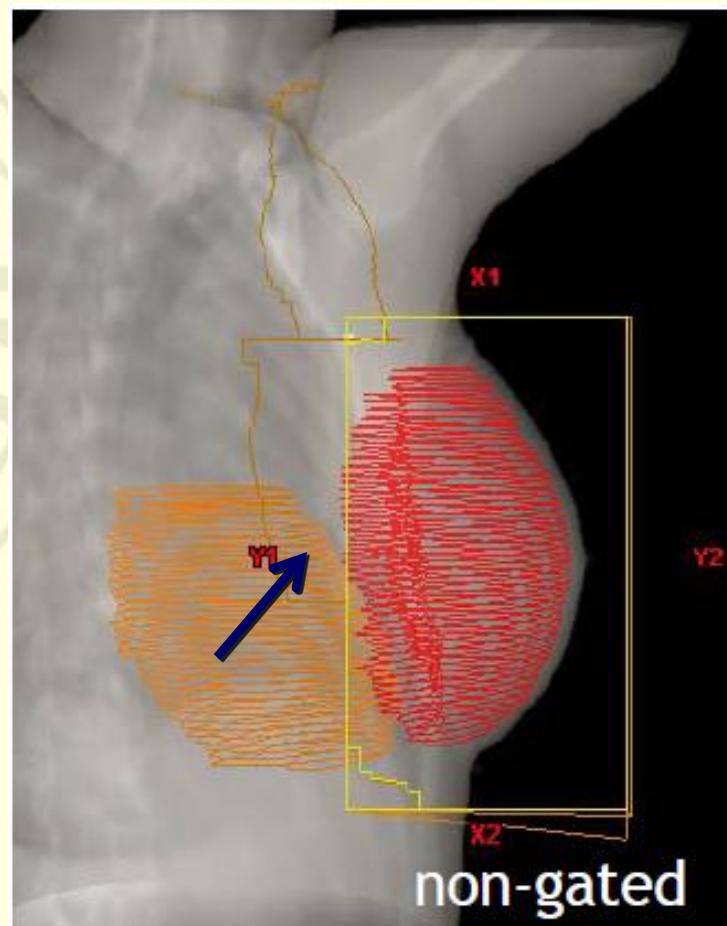
- Maximum distance of the heart contour to the medial field border

(on the simulator film or BEV of the medio-lateral field)

- Cardiac mortality <1% for MHD <1 cm
- Cardiac mortality >2% for MHD >2 cm

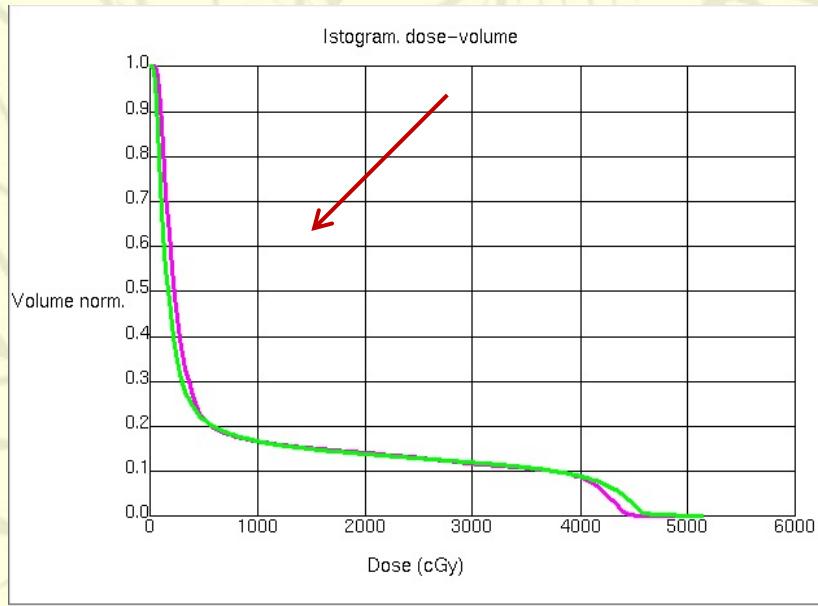


# MAXIMUM HEART DISTANCE (MHD)



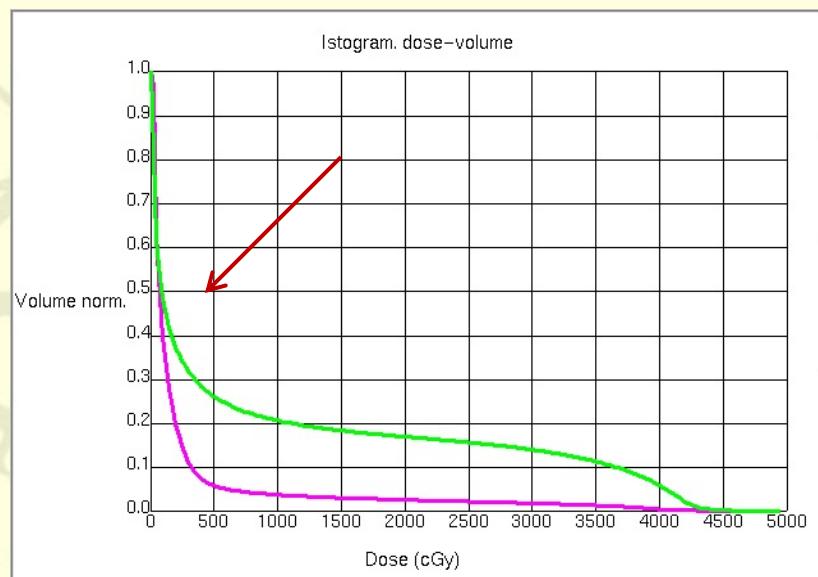
## 3D TREATMENT PLANNING

### DOSE VOLUME HISTOGRAMS



Statistiche ROI

Tipo linea	ROI	Prova	Min.	Max.	Media	Dev. std.
◆ —	cuore	Trial_2	53.9	4504.4	767.4	1272.4
◆ —	polt sin	Trial_2	29.1	4881.9	737.6	1321.0



Statistiche ROI

Tipo linea	ROI	Prova	Min.	Max.	Media	Dev. std.
◆ —	cuore	Trial_IMRT	17.0	4297.3	209.6	533.3
◆ —	polt sin	Trial_IMRT	9.7	4560.4	769.2	1337.1

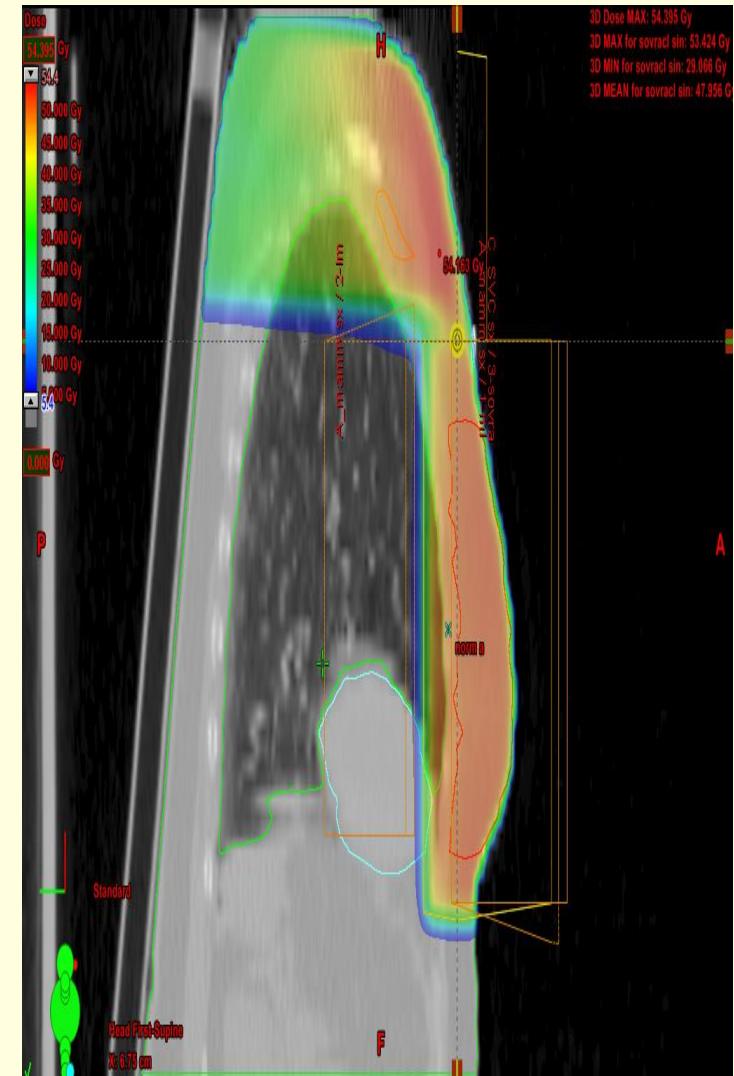
### Heart: left breast

- **15% of the heart < 25 Gy**
- **5% of the heart < 5 Gy**

# Volume cardiaco irradiato: Mammella

Significativa associazione con:

- ◆ **Quale target: es +/- N locoregionali**
- ◆ **Tecnica di trattamento**



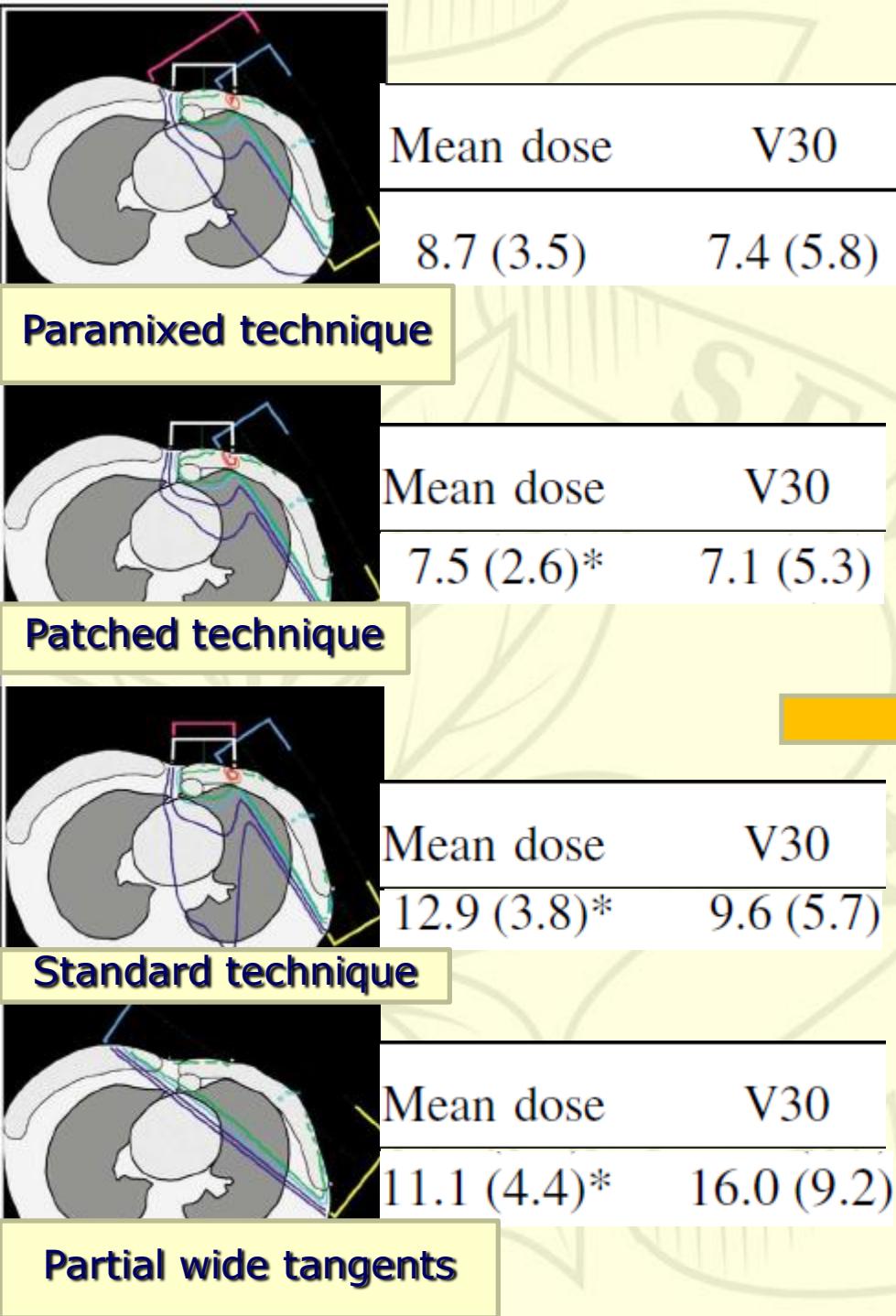


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# THE CONTRIBUTION OF REGIONAL IRRADIATION AND BOOST DOSE

- **Left or right sided scar (boost): mean dose < 0.3 Gy**
- **Left-sided axillary RT: mean dose 0.4 Gy**
- **Left supraclavicular field: mean dose 0.6 Gy**
- **IMN RT: mean dose ranging 2 Gy-13 Gy**

# Mean dose (Gy) and % volume of heart



EORTC year 3 (2004)	No IM-MS N (%)	IM-MS N (%)	P-value
Cardiac fibrosis	5 (0.3%)	7 (0.4%)	0.5
Evidence of cardiac disease	28 (1.4)	31 (1.6)	0.6

**EORTC: 26 Gy X+ 24 Gy e-**



## Recommended dose/volume limits (Gagliardi, 2010)

essentially eliminate the heart from the primary beams. If NTCP models for cardiac mortality are used, it should be considered that an NTCP value  $\geq 5\%$  could jeopardise the beneficial effect on survival of RT (1). So as not to underestimate this risk, the most conservative approach is provided by the use of the steeper dose-response curve (Fig. 1), that is, the one from the breast data (25). For partial irradiation, conservative (NTCP) model-based estimates predict that a  $V_{25\text{Gy}} < 10\%$  (in 2 Gy per fraction) will be associated with a  $<1\%$  probability of cardiac mortality  $\sim 15$  years after RT. For this a conservative (*i.e.*, overly safe) model was used that may overestimate the risk. Conversely, as the

# Conflicting and confounding studies

Dose-volume

RT field

Comorbidities  
Diabetes,  
Hypertension

Length of Follow-up

Orthovoltage energy

Patient age  
Smoking

Fraction size

Different techniques





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**Do large fractions increase the risk?**

# Hypofractionated

**RT**



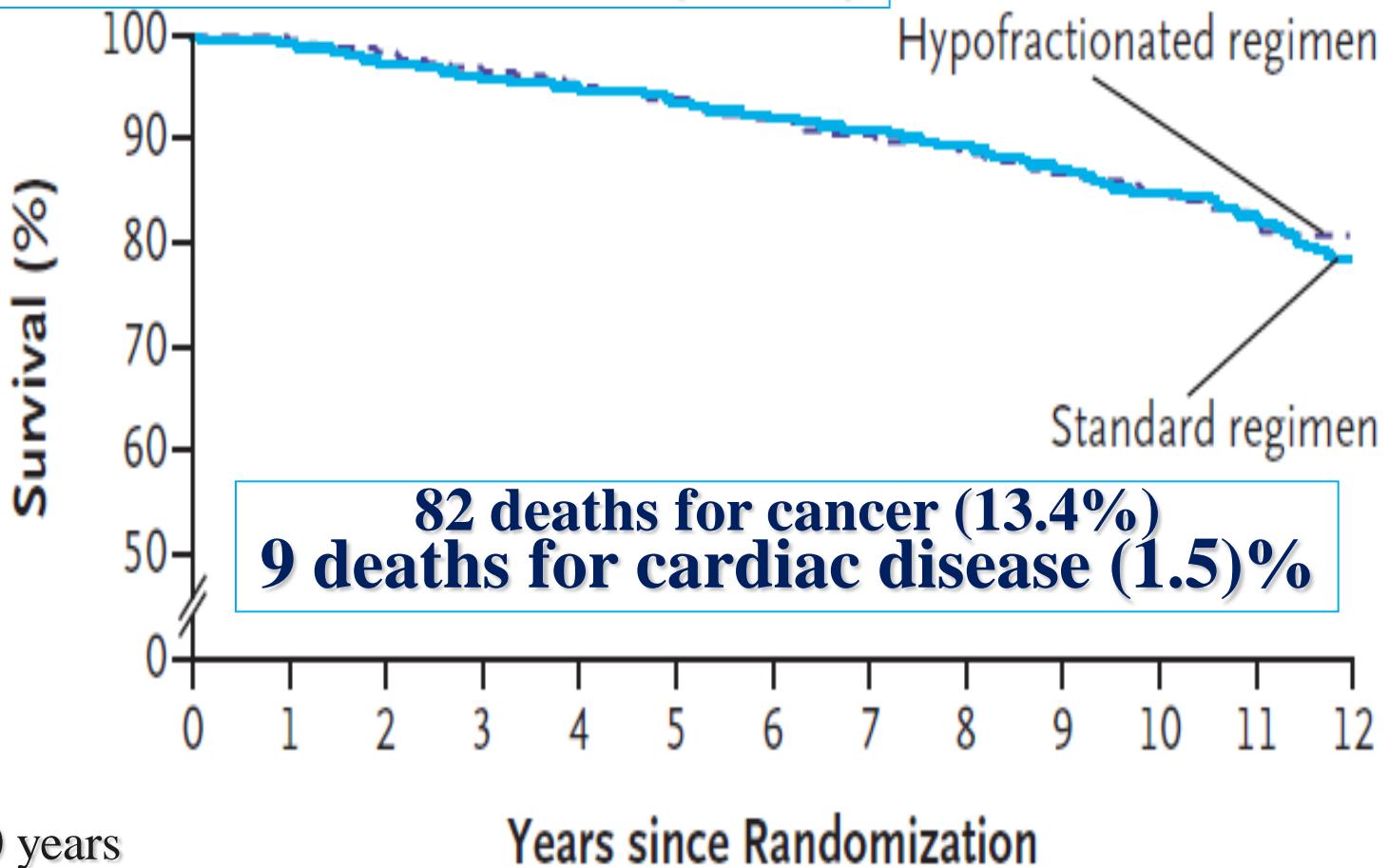
**The priority is to protect the heart as much as possible whatever dose regimen is used**



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# Ontario Clinical Oncology Group Trial

**82 deaths for cancer (13.2%)  
12 deaths for cardiac disease (1.9%)**





No difference in cardiac mortality with hypofractionated  
(40 Gy/16 or 42.5 Gy/16) vs conventional RT  
irrespective of laterality

>7000 pts , 1984-2000

Age (y)	Fraction size (Gy)	Laterality	Cumulative incidence of cardiac death at 10-y follow-up (%)	Relative risk* at 10-y follow-up
All ages	$\leq 2$	Right	1.01	<b>1.00</b>
		Left	0.96	0.95 (0.24–3.78)
	>2	Right	1.73	<b>1.00</b>
		Left	1.86	1.07 (0.68–1.69)
$\leq 60$	$\leq 2$	Right	0.00	<b>1.00</b>
		Left	0.00	N/A
	>2	Right	0.70	<b>1.00</b>
		Left	0.34	0.49 (0.15–1.62)
$> 60$	$\leq 2$	Right	2.68	<b>1.00</b>
		Left	2.37	0.90 (0.23–3.53)
	>2	Right	3.05	<b>1.00</b>
		Left	3.74	1.22 (0.75–2.01)



# Conflicting and confounding studies

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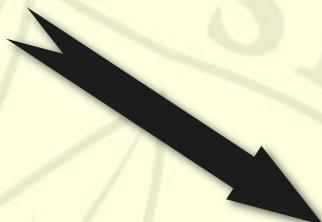


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**RT 2-D**

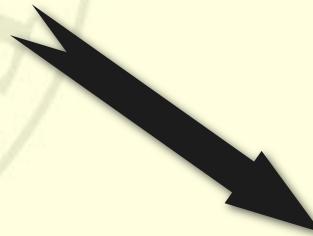
## Evoluzione della Tecnica

Softwares dedicati  
MLC



**RT 3-D**

Micro MLC  
*Inverse Planning*  
*Biological Target Volume*

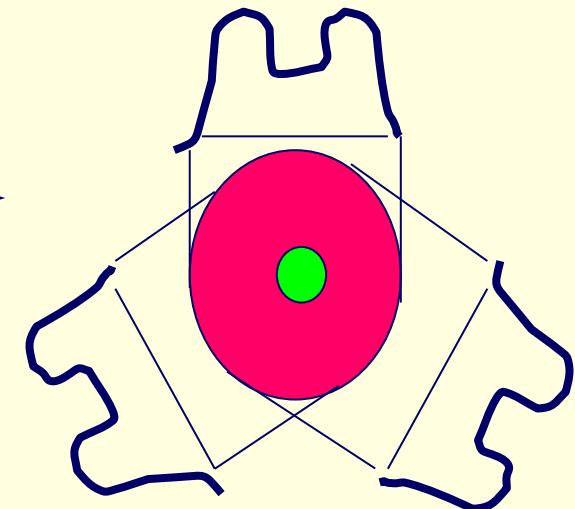
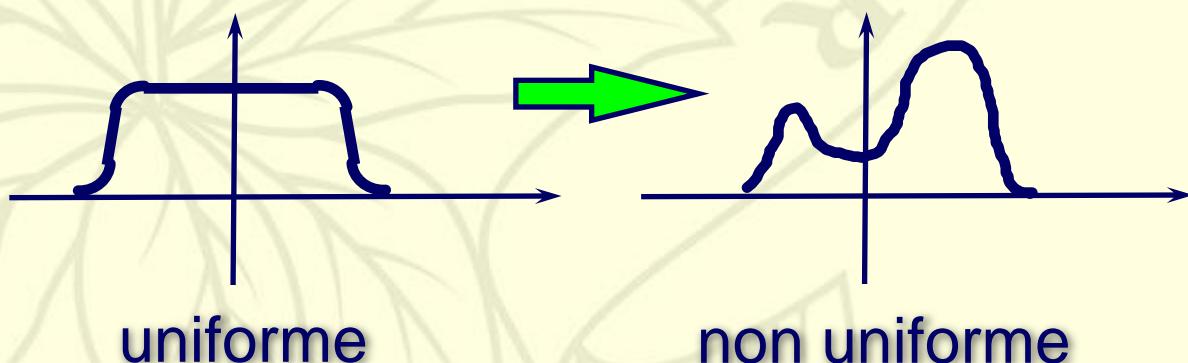


**IMRT  
Stereotassi**

## RT ad intensità modulata (IMRT)

**Tecnica di RTP 3D conformazionale che ottimizza l'irradiazione di volumi irregolari**

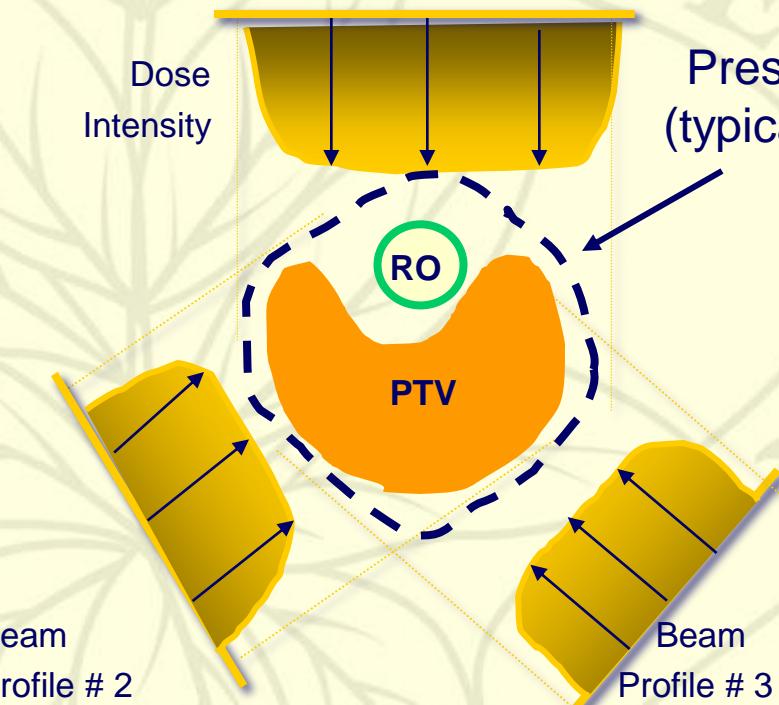
Per bersagli complessi o in prossimità di organi critici la distribuzione della dose è ottenuta mediante fasci di radiazioni con fluenza non uniforme



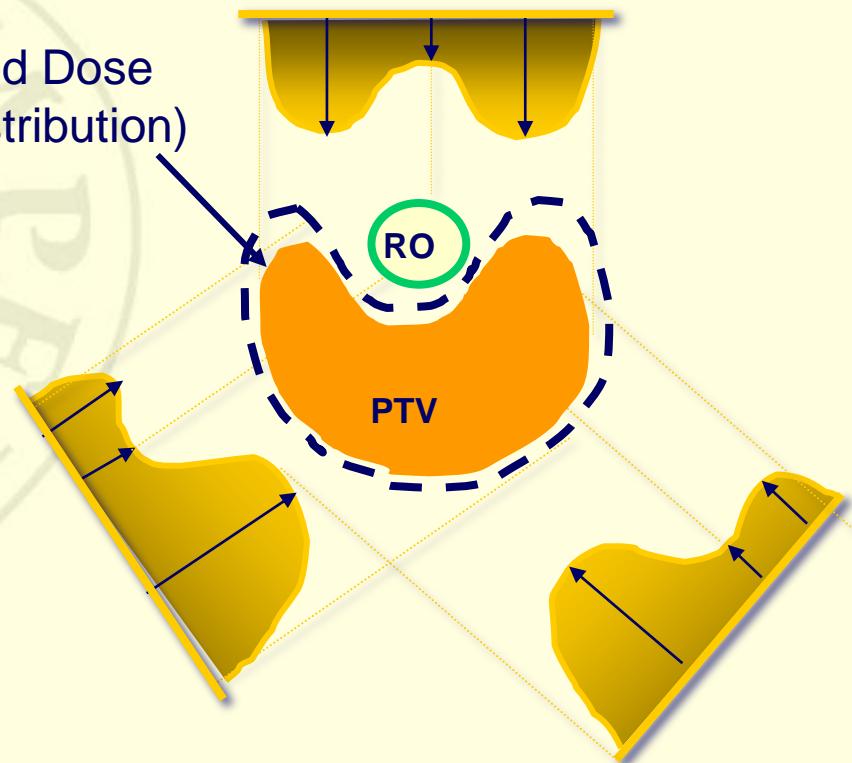
# 3D-CRT vs. IMRT

## 3-field CRT

Beam Profile # 1



## 3-field IMRT



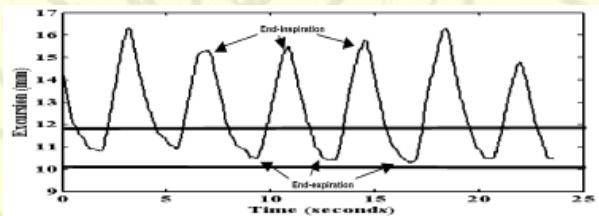
# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro

I movimenti respiratori nell'irradiazione della mammella possono avere un peso variabile tra paziente e paziente, riflettendosi in problemi di riposizionamento, piuttosto che sulla qualità del trattamento.

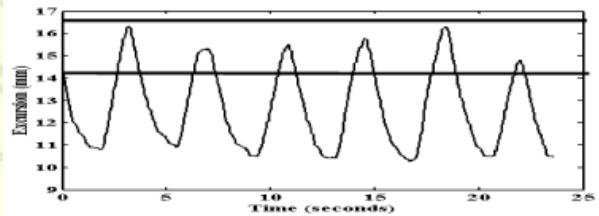
Il maggior vantaggio del controllo del respiro in inspirazione è la possibilità di dislocare il cuore verso il mediastino, allontanandolo dai campi di trattamento.



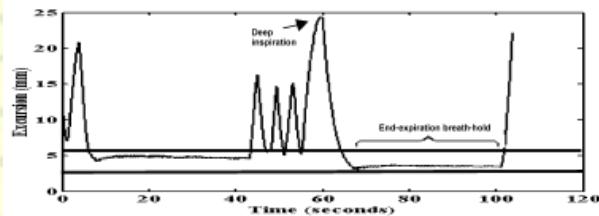
# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro



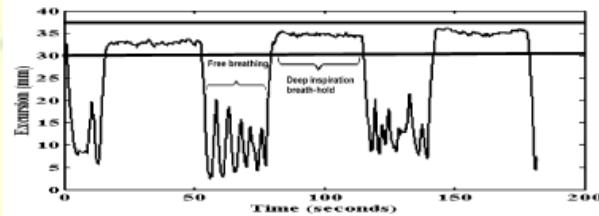
*end-expiration gating*



*end-inspiration gating*



*end-expiration breath hold*

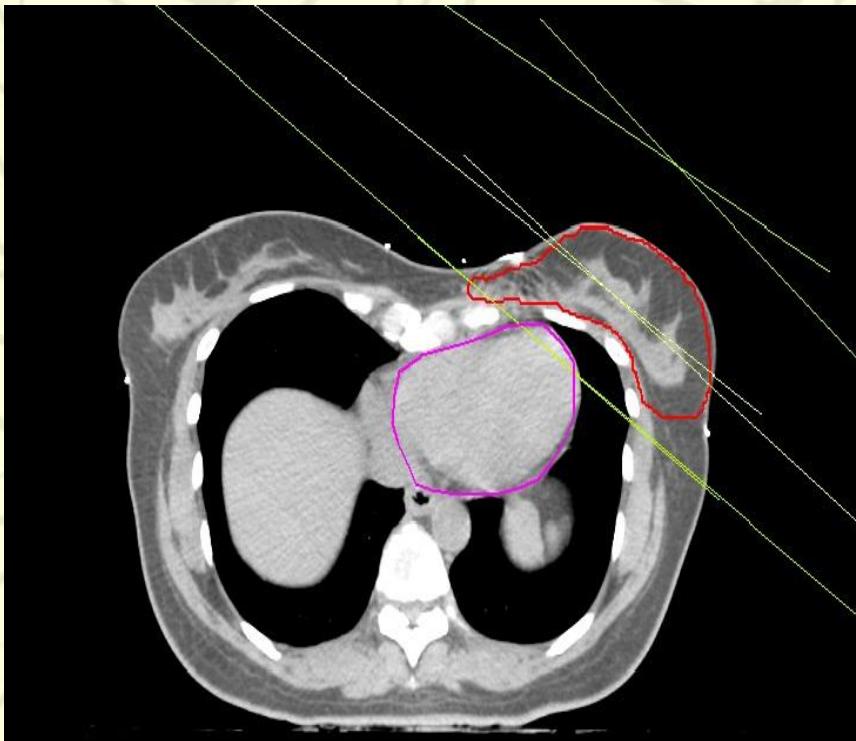


*deep inspiration breath hold*

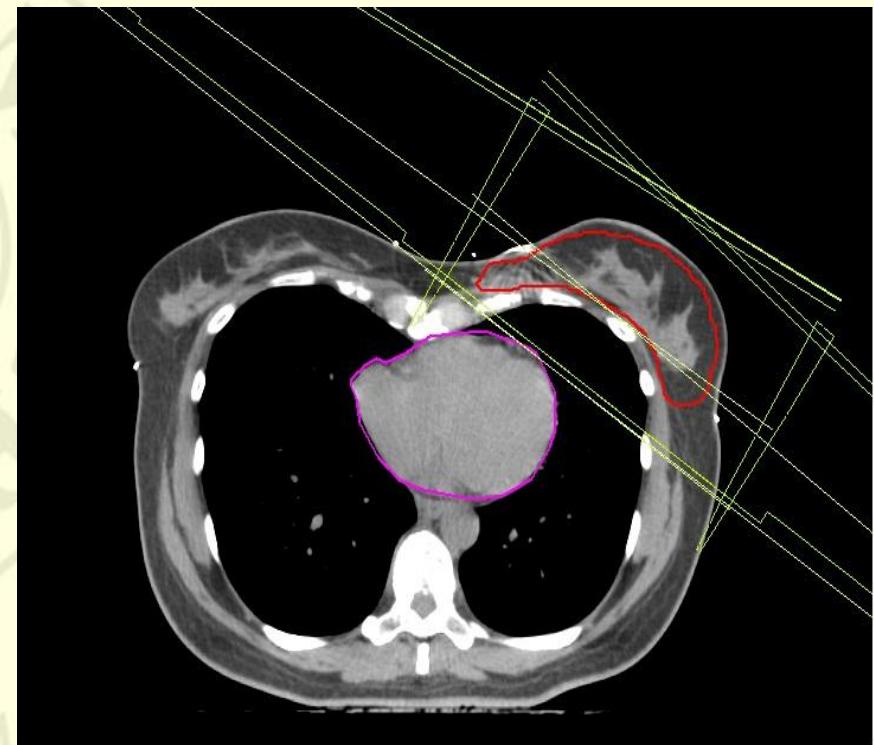


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CLINICA DEL LAVORO E DELLA RIABILITAZIONE  
I.R.C.C.S.

# **RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro**



**Free Breathing**

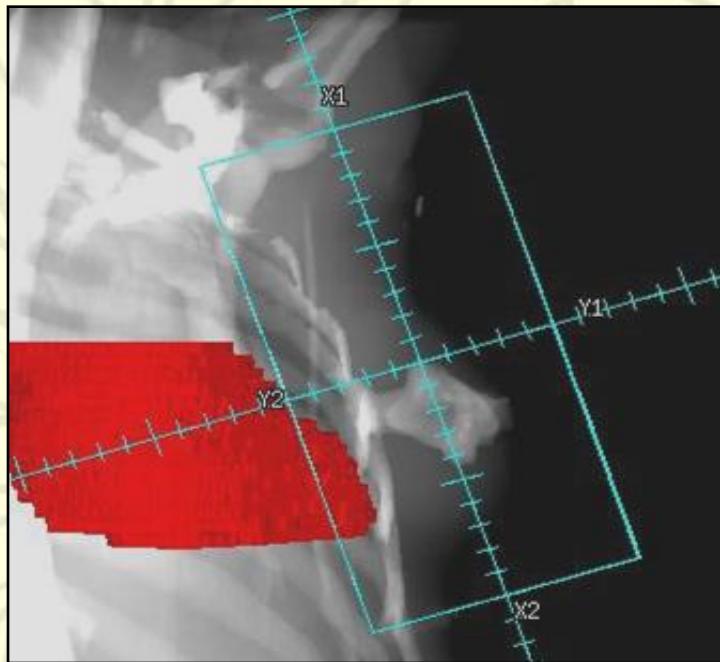


**Deep Inspiration Breath Hold**

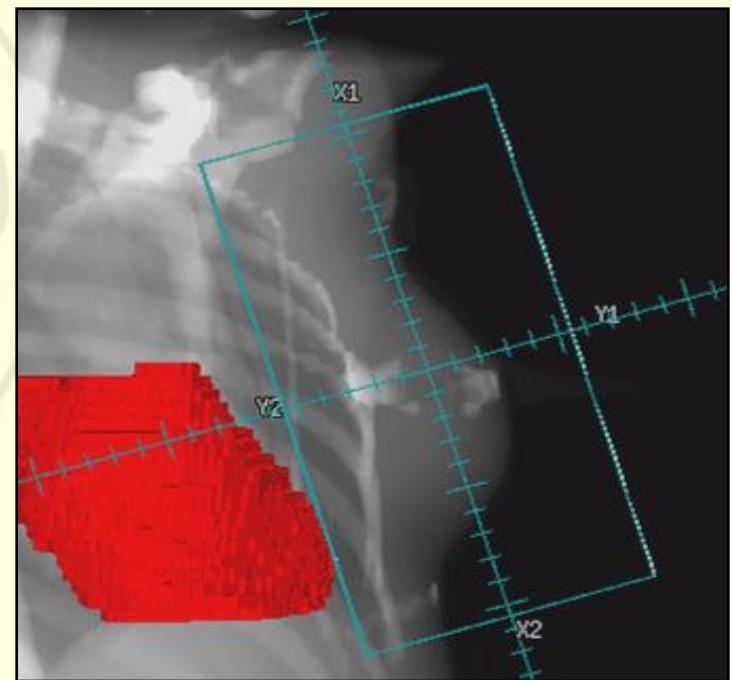


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# **RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro**

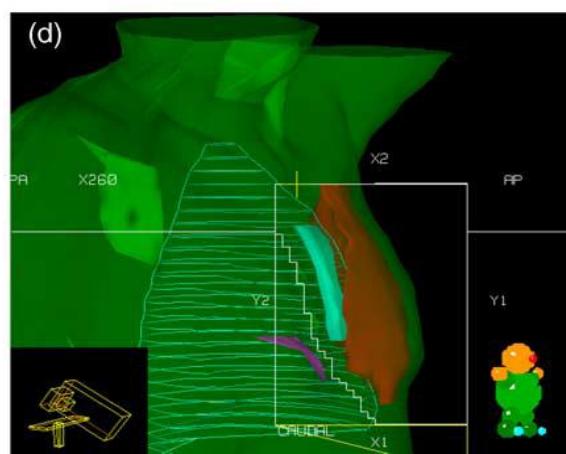
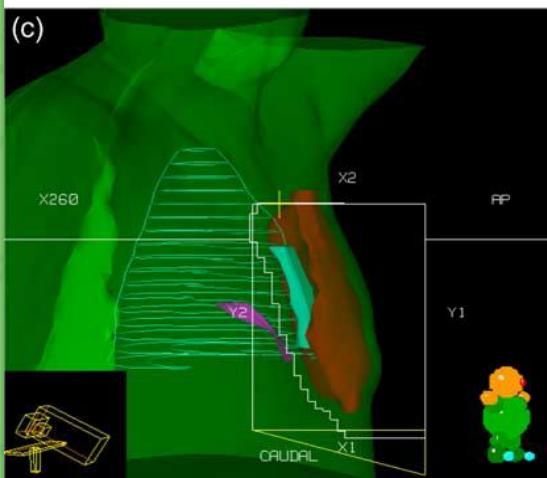
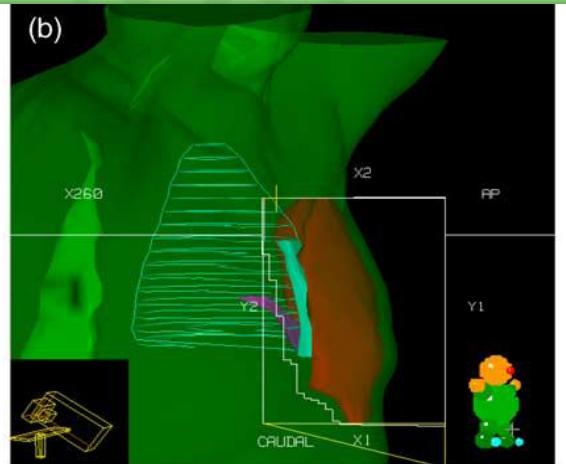


**Free Breathing**



**Deep Inspiration Breath Hold**

# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro



a) end-expiration breath hold

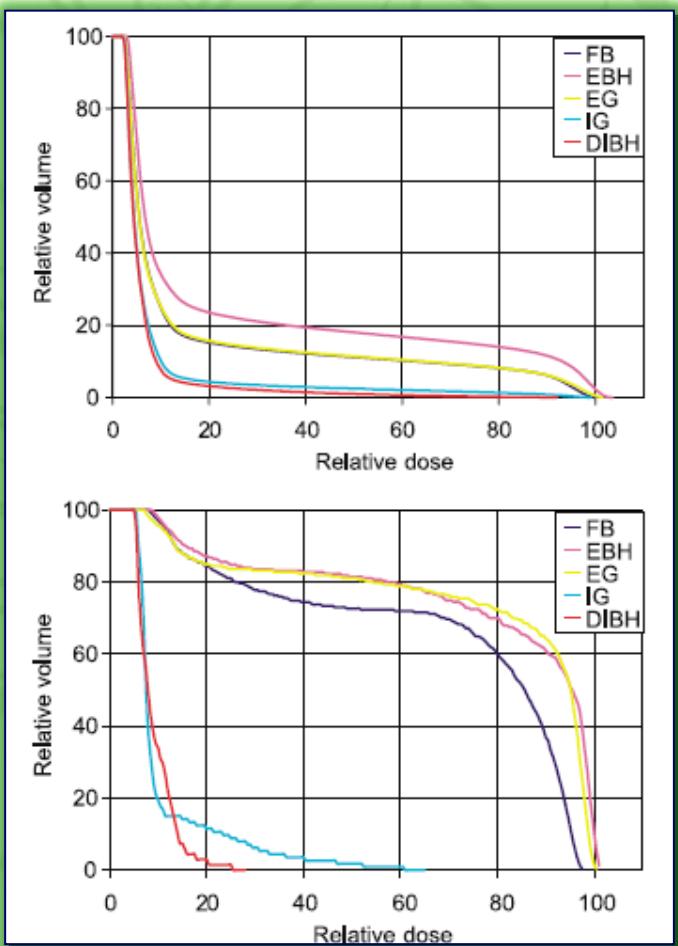
b) end-inspiration gating

c) end-expiration gating

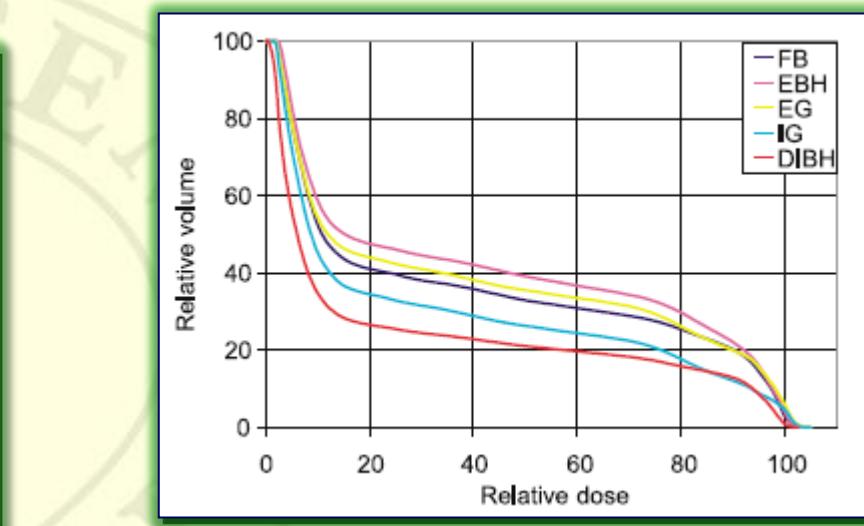
d) deep inspiration breath hold

# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro

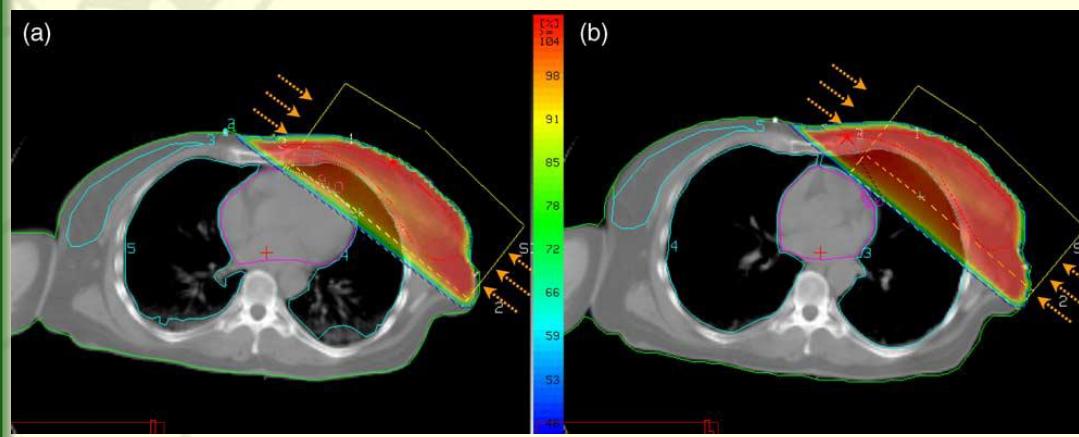
CUORE



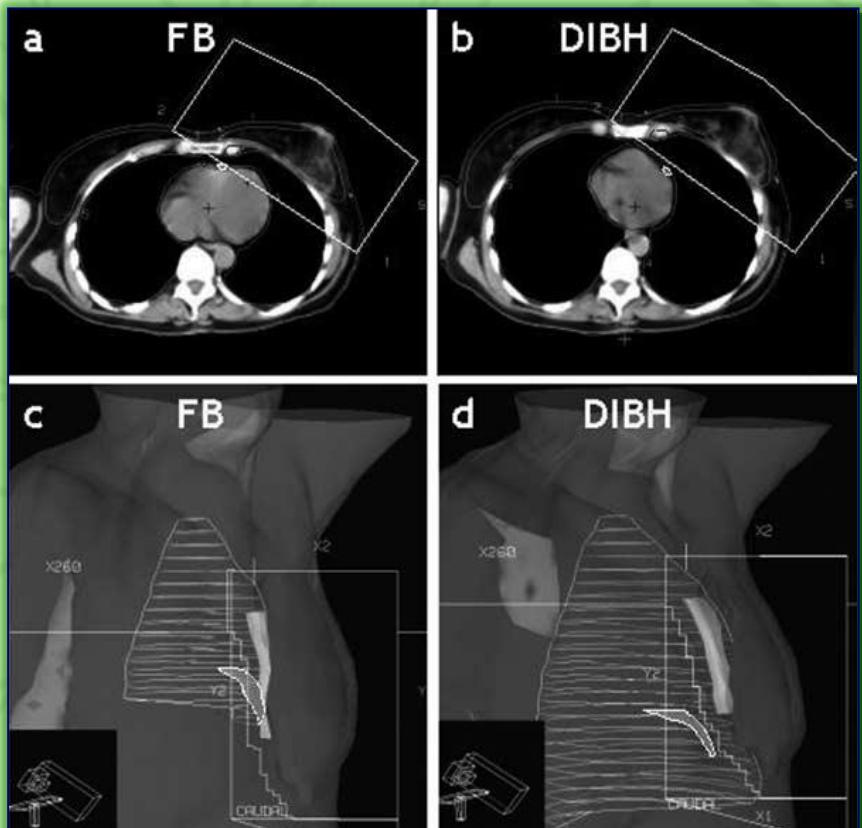
LADCA



POLMONE



# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro



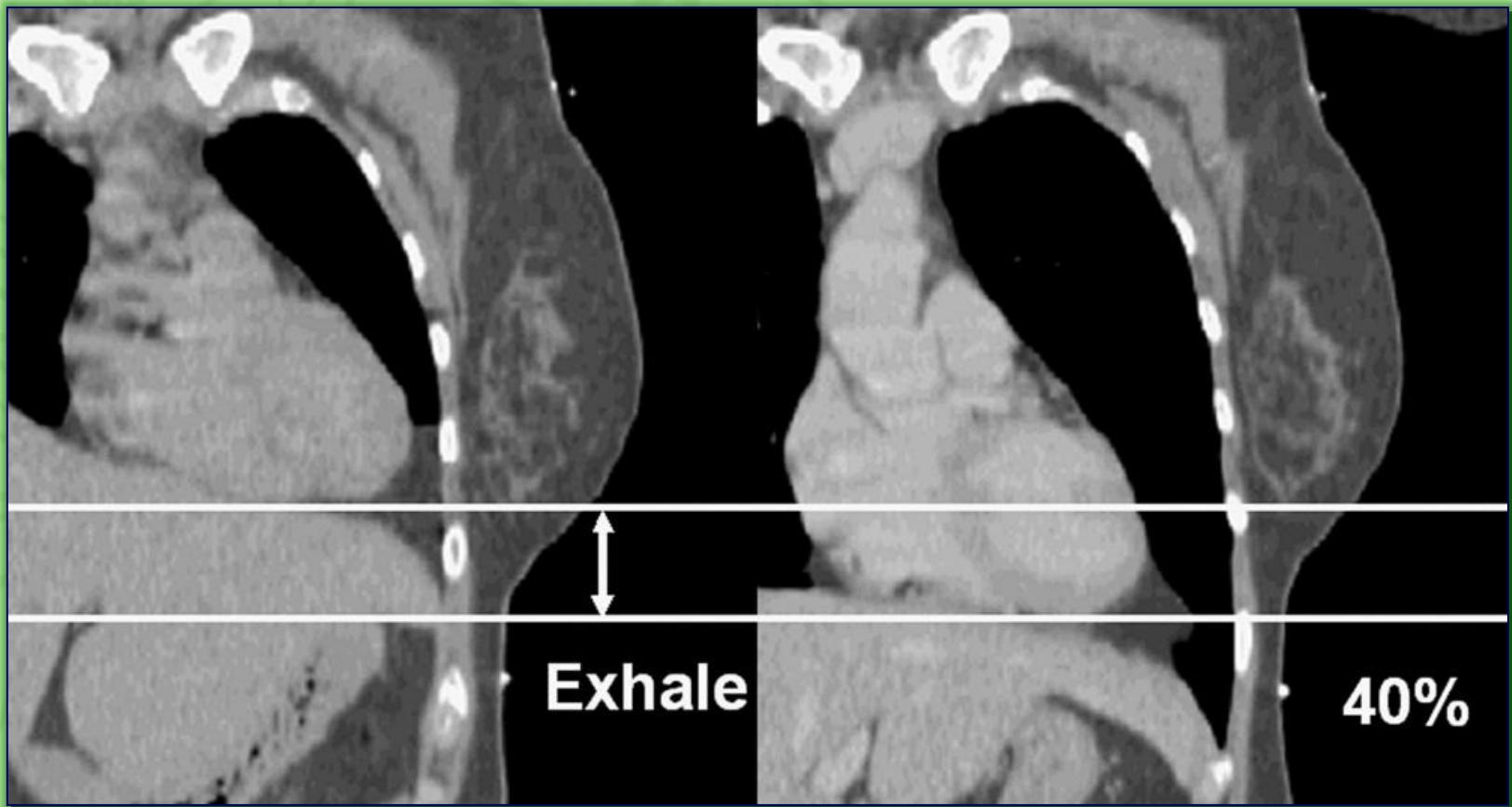
Volume relativo mediano che riceve >50% della dose prescritta

	<b>FB</b>	<b>DIBH</b>
<i>Polmone</i>	37%	31%
<i>Cuore</i>	8%	1%
<i>LADCA</i>	54%	5%

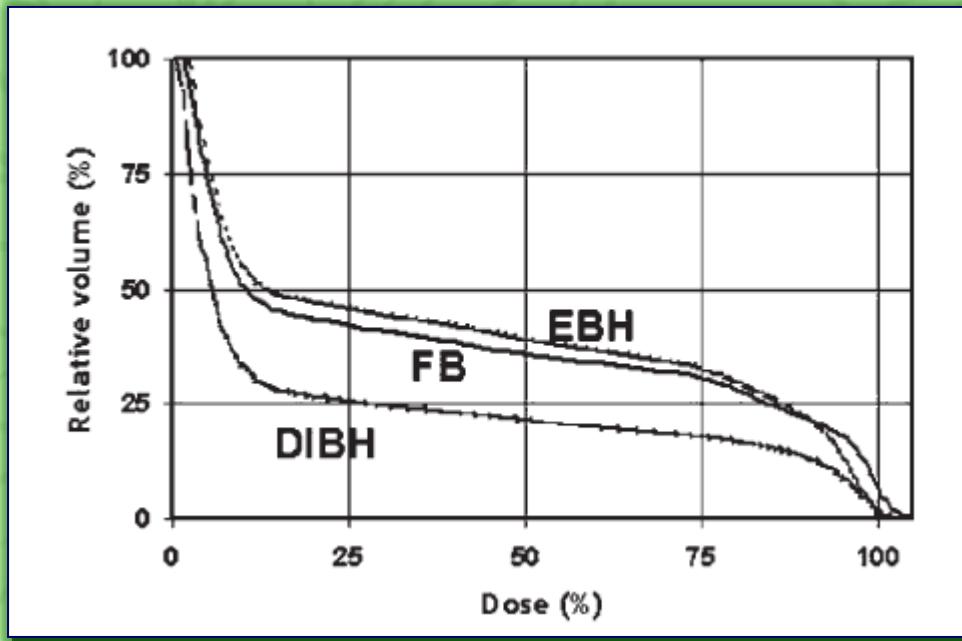


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## RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro

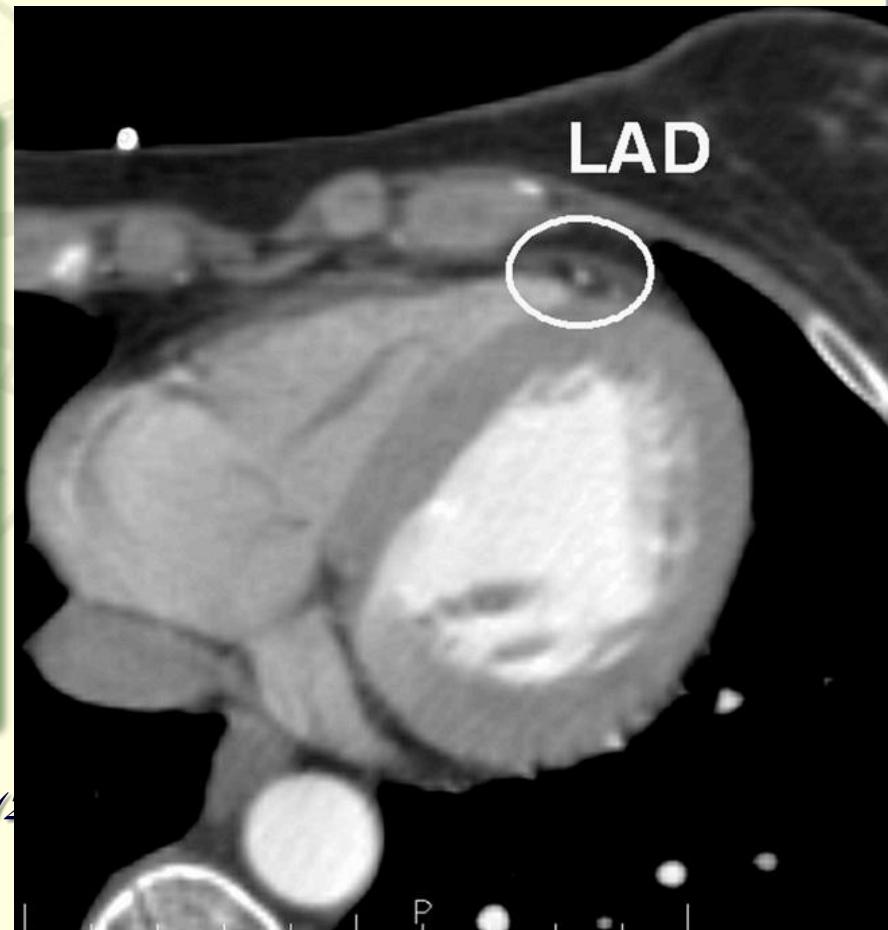
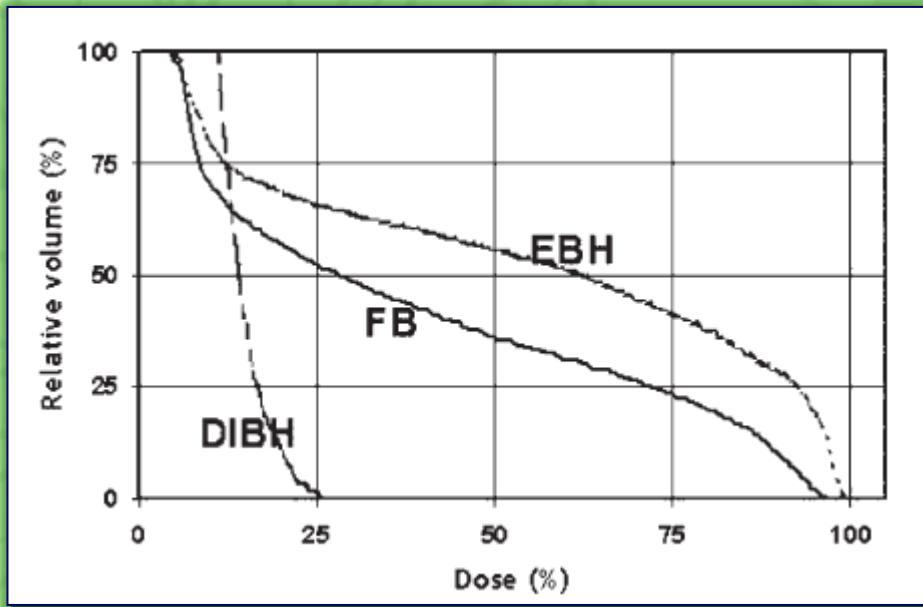


# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro



Confronto tra DVH del polmone omolaterale in EBH, FB, DIBH

# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro



Anders N. Pedersen *Radiotherapy and Oncology* 72 (2)



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# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro

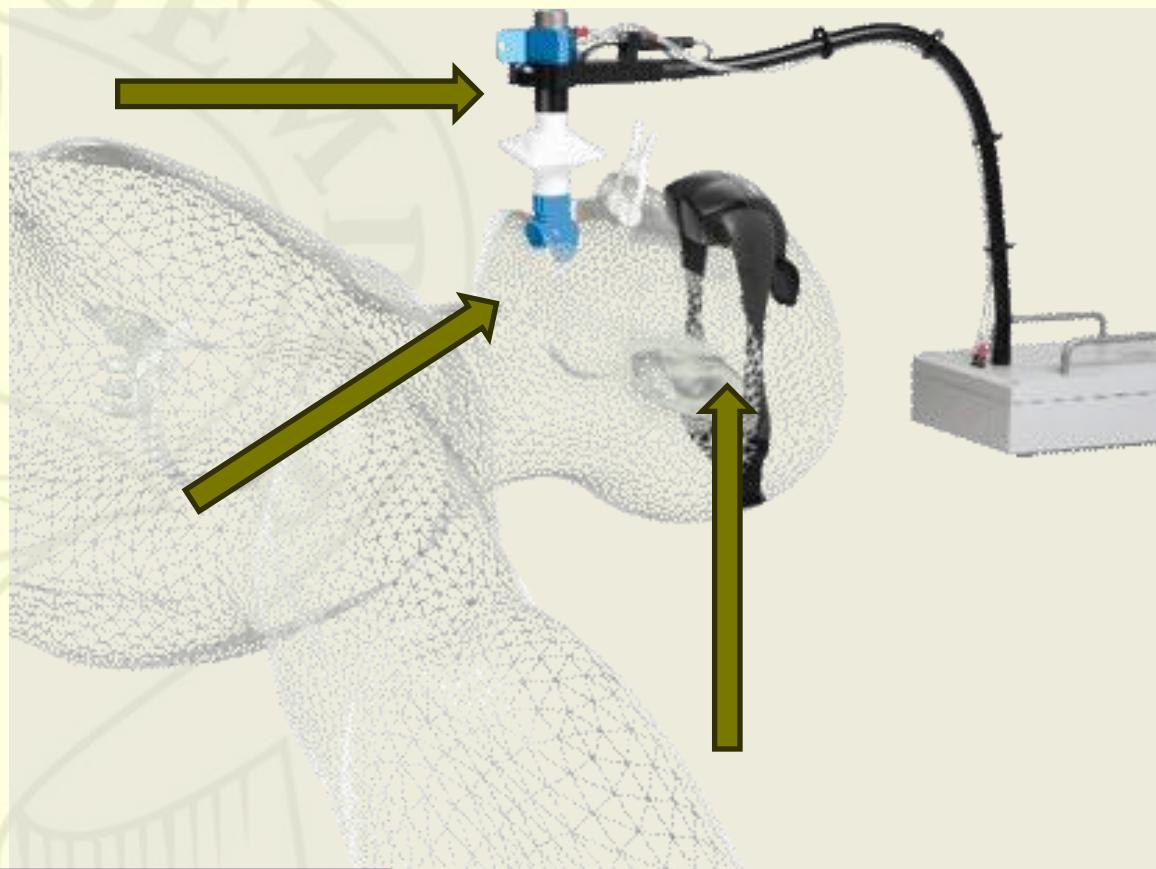
Volume relativo e assoluto di cuore e LADCA che riceve >50% della dose prescritte

Patient no.	Free breathing	
	Heart	LADCA
1	3% (18.5)	36% (1.7)
2	12% (82.7)	45% (2.6)
3	20% (130.7)	79% (2.5)
4	1% (4.2)	12% (0.4)
5	8% (42.9)	68% (2.4)
6	4% (19.7)	74% (1.8)
7	7% (48.9)	58% (2.0)
Median	8%	54%

Anders N. Pedersen *Radiotherapy and Oncology* 72 (2004) 53–60

# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro

- ▶ Il respiro viene misurato tramite uno spirometro collegato alla bocca per mezzo di un boccaglio;
- ▶ un tappanoso impedisce una respirazione nasale.
  
- ▶ Il paziente segue l'andamento del proprio respiro tramite un paio di «video-occhiali»



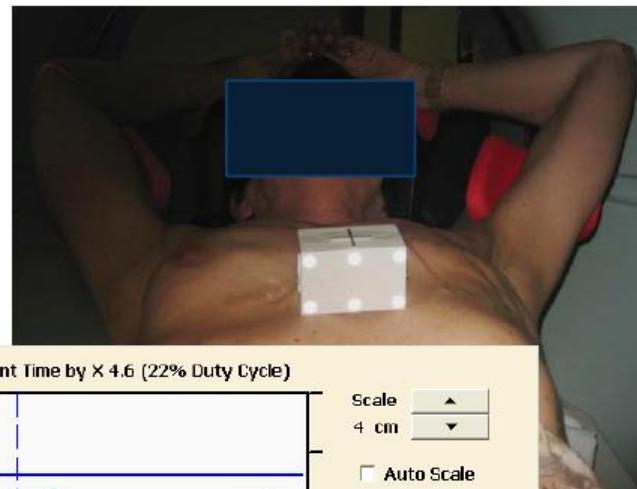
Sistema spirometrico



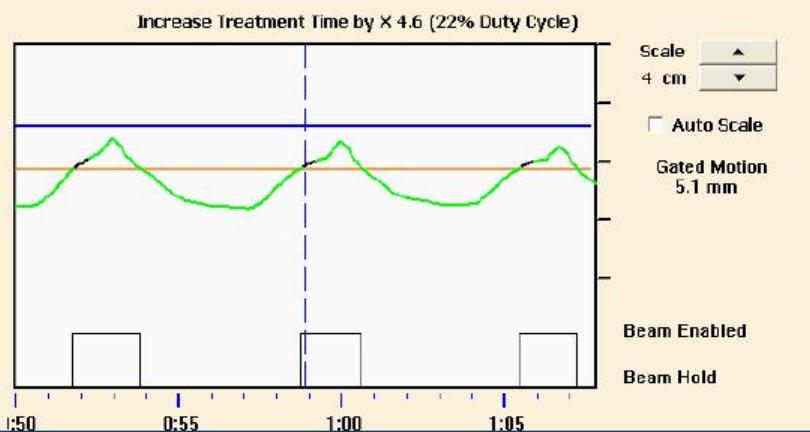
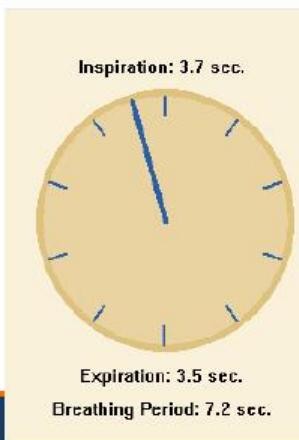
# RT con tecniche di controllo del respiro

## ■ Gating using Real time Positioning Management

- External
- Not invasive
- High patient compliance
- Easy

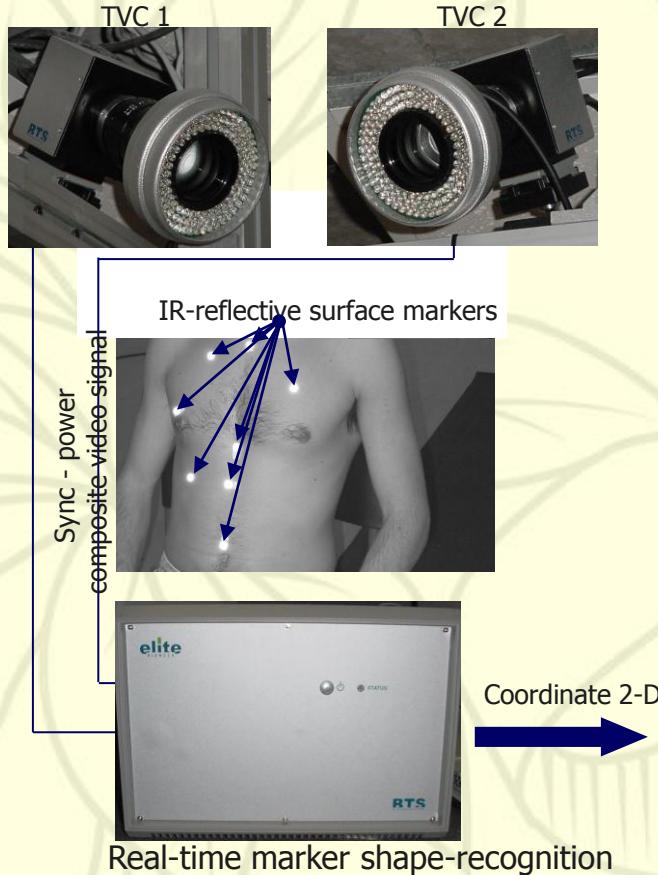


- Telecamera fissa ad infrarossi
- Marker block riflettenti sulla pz
- Software dedicato interfacciato col CLINAC

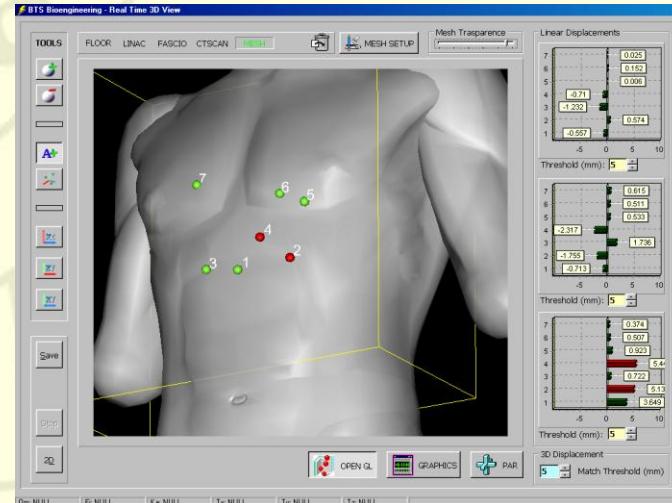


# Irradiation with respiratory control techniques

## Localization opto-electronic with passive markers



- Telecamere con flash all'infrarosso
- Marcatori riflettenti
- Software per *image-processing* e ricostruzione tridimensionale

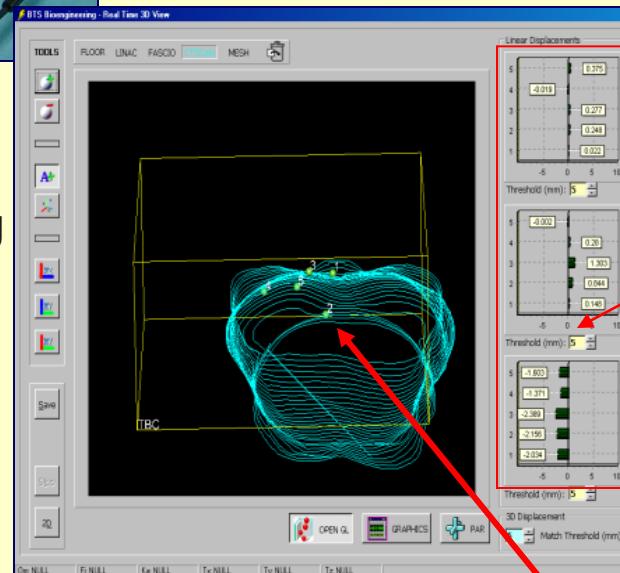


# CT SCAN ACQUISITION



1. 6 reflective markers placed on selected skin landmarks
2. acquisition of 3D marker positions at a comfortable level of DIBH, as reference
3. eyewear viewer (MicroOptical Co. USA) connected to the ELITE computer, showing the real time marker displacements in all directions

4. evaluation of breath hold duration
5. CT - scan (3 mm slices) at free breathing (FB) for treatment planning comparison
6. CT scan (3 mm slices) at breath hold (BH) in 3 slot (~ 25 slices), with real time monitoring of markers displacement in all directions



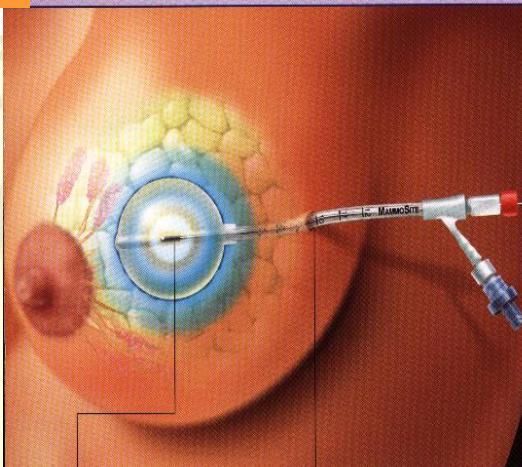
**MARKER  
DISPLACEMENTS  
CALCULATION**

**MARKERS 3D LOCALIZATION**

## 3D RT o IMRT



## Targit



## IORT



## Brachiterapia HDR/LDR



# Partial breast irradiation

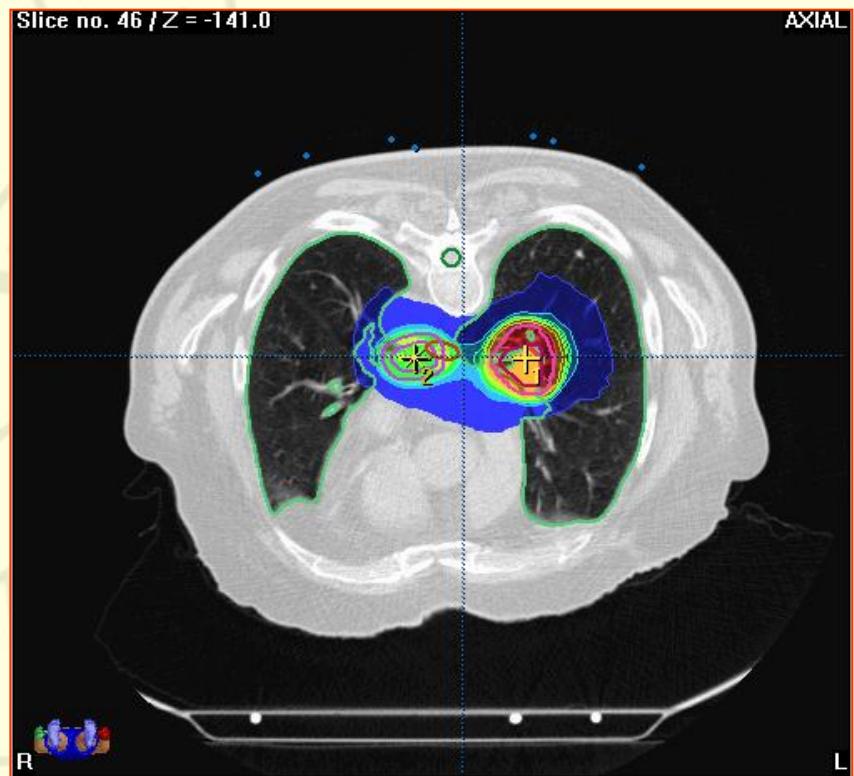
Technique	PBSI	HDR (catheters)	Wedge	IMRT	3D-CRT
Treated Breast	90 Gy	34 Gy	50 Gy	50 Gy	38.5 Gy
Contralateral Breast	2.2 mSv	230 mSv	1695 mSv	206 mSv	140 mSv
Spleen	44 mSv	1171 mSv	2300 mSv	810 mSv	130 mSv
Ipsilateral lung	790 mSv	2471 mSv	582 mSv	121 mSv	80 mSv
Heart (LAD)	0.7 Gy	3.6 Gy	2.7 Gy	1.1 Gy	0.7 Gy



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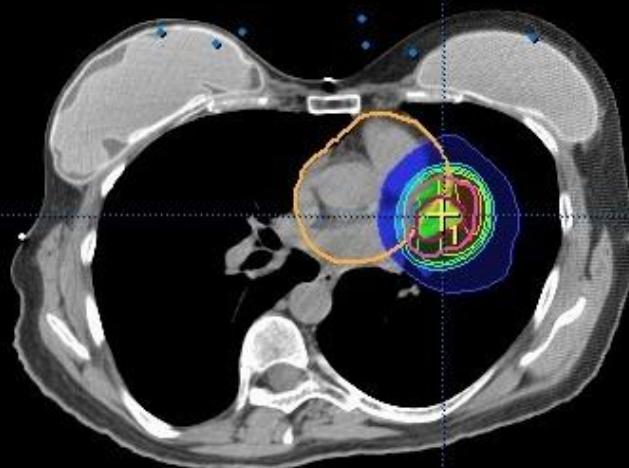
# Radioterapia Stereotassica

Tecnica di Radioterapia di lesioni individuate attraverso principi di localizzazione stereotassici e trattate in modo selettivo mediante fasci non coplanari di radiazioni



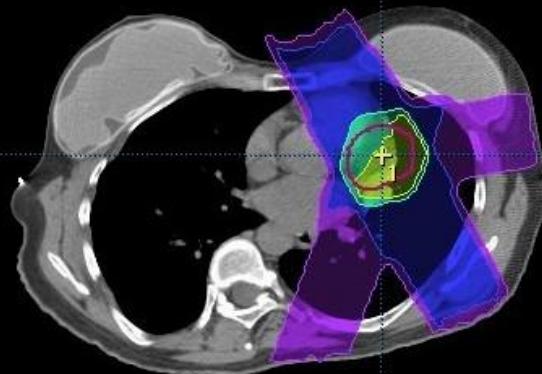
Slice no. 57 / Z = -147.0

AXIAL



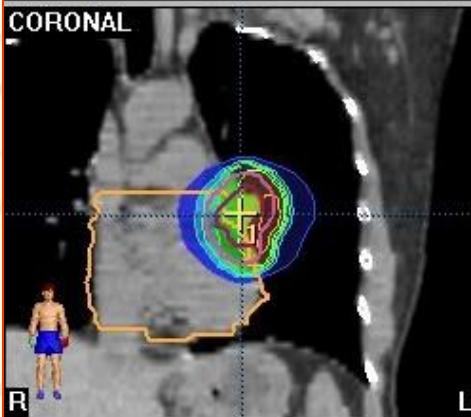
Slice no. 57

AXIAL



R

CORONAL



L

SAGITTAL

R

L

A  
100.0 % = 12.00 Gy  
P

- 50.0 %
- 80.0 %
- 90.0 %
- 95.0 %
- 100.0 %
- 105.0 %
- 110.0 %

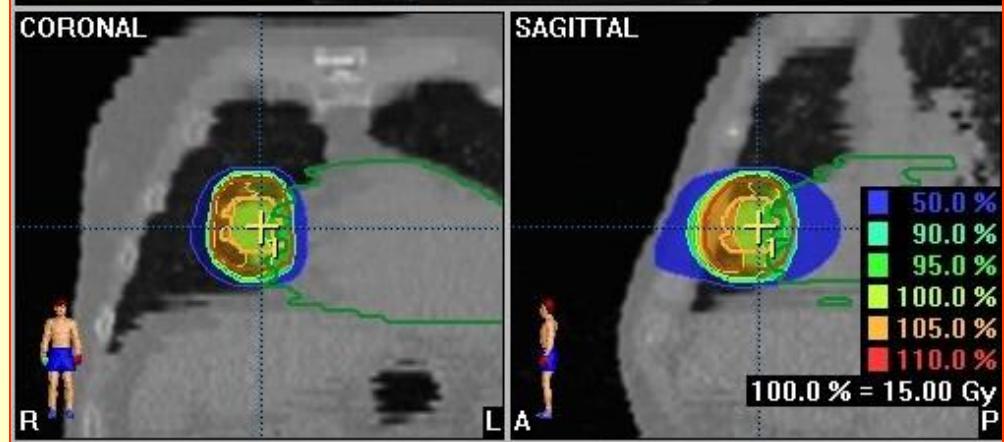
AXIAL

Slice no. 52 / Z = -174.0

AXIAL



CORONAL





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# Posizionamento del paziente



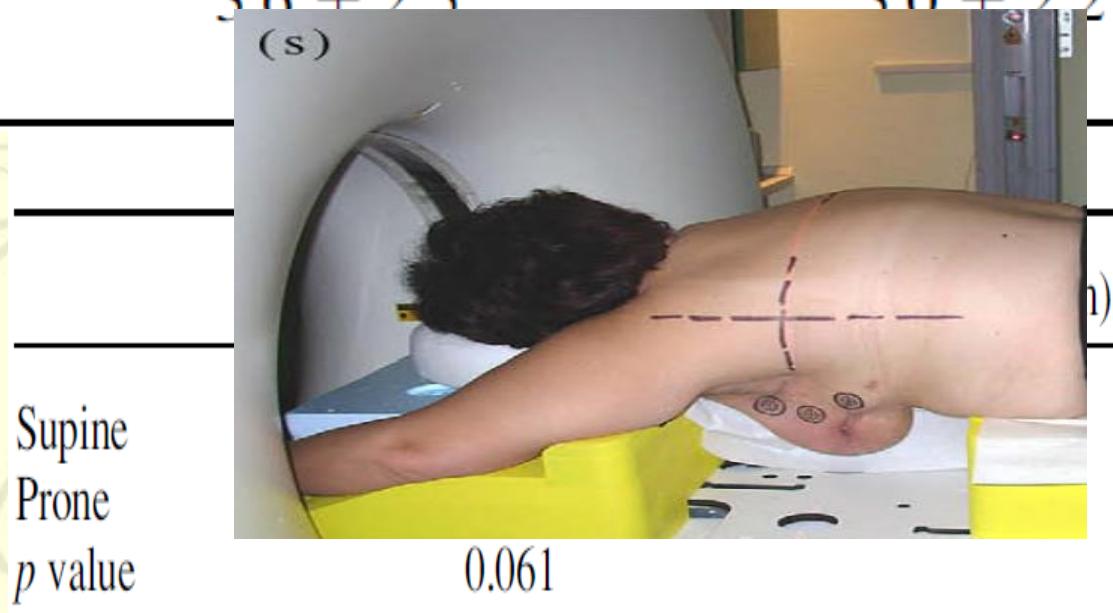
Sophisticated technique but also optimum  
patient positioning  
(Canney 1999, Canney 2001, Hurkmans, 2001)

# Prone vs. supine positioning

Heart ( $n = 34$ )

Mean dose (Gy)	V <sub>25Gy</sub> (%)	V <sub>30Gy</sub> (%)
3.51 ± 2.33	4.7 ± 4.6	4.1 ± 4.3
3.18 ± 1.31	3.6 ± 2.5	3.0 ± 2.2
0.413	(s)	

Dose to heart did not differ, but worse repositioning accuracy





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## Conclusioni

- ▶ La tossicità cardiaca da radiazioni è un evento riconosciuto
- ▶ I migliori risultati oncologici e la maggiore aspettativa di vita impongono una attenta valutazione del rischio di sequele
- ▶ I miglioramenti delle tecniche di Radioterapia possono ridurre significativamente la RIHD