

# Do we still need natural intelligence in radiation oncology?

RO-001

on behalf of

World Association of Robo Sapiens in Healthcare  
(WARSH)

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# Artificial Intelligence in radiation oncology



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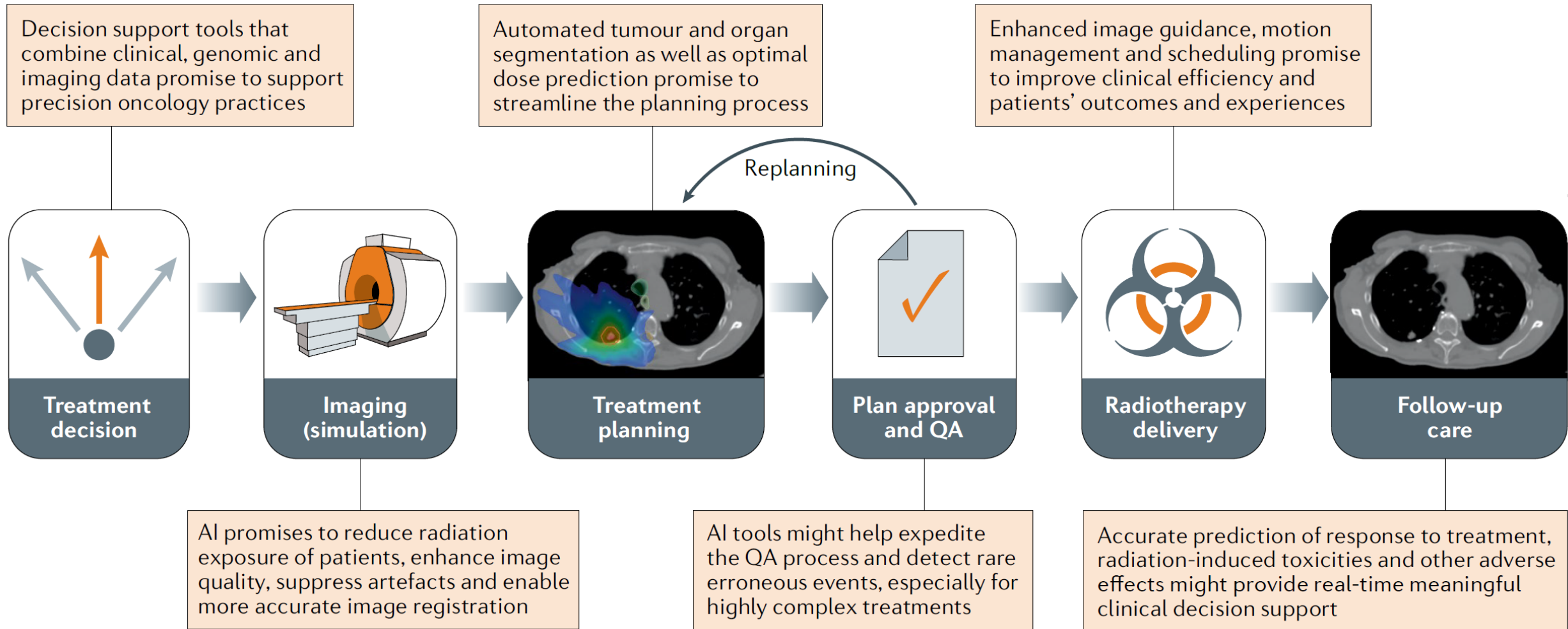
# DISCLOSURES

No disclosures.

# Where AI in radiation oncology can be used?

Among many useful areas

AI can be used also for **everything**



GBN

ENGINEERED  
ARTS



# Why radiation oncology is a good terrain to AI?

RO lives on **images**

Image processing (one of the strongest field in AI)

Different image modalities / image fusion

Images for planning, verification, (prediction, outcome)

Radiotherapy is a very **formalized industrial like** process

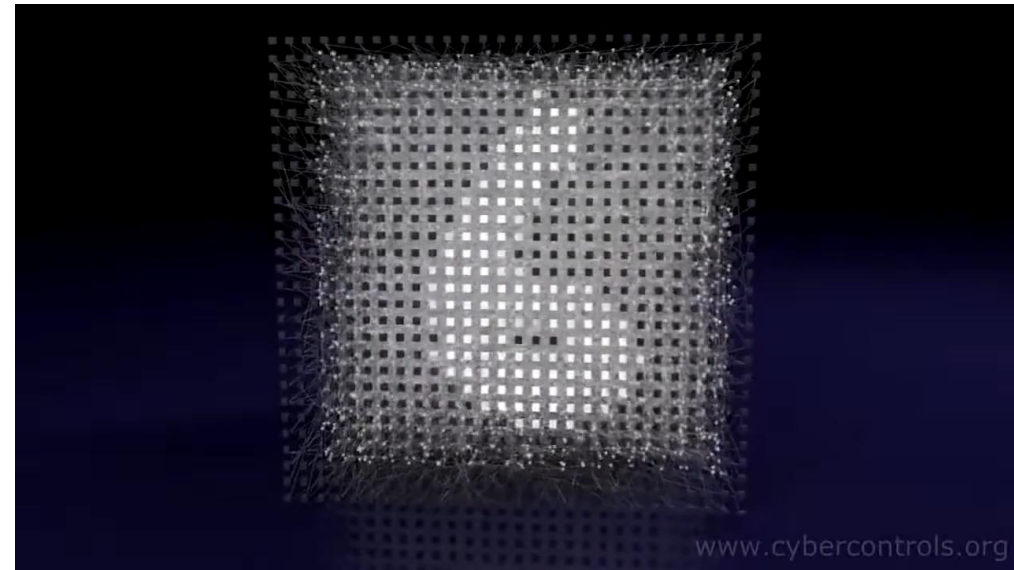
Well-defined **rules**

Solid **data**

Large number of **algorithms** already used

Very advanced on **QA**

Decreasing the influence of **human error**



# Image quality enhancement

**Image quality** is often a problem in RO

**CBCT** look quite fine but still there is a room for improvement

Using **MR**-s with weaker magnetic field (eg. open MR for brachytherapy)

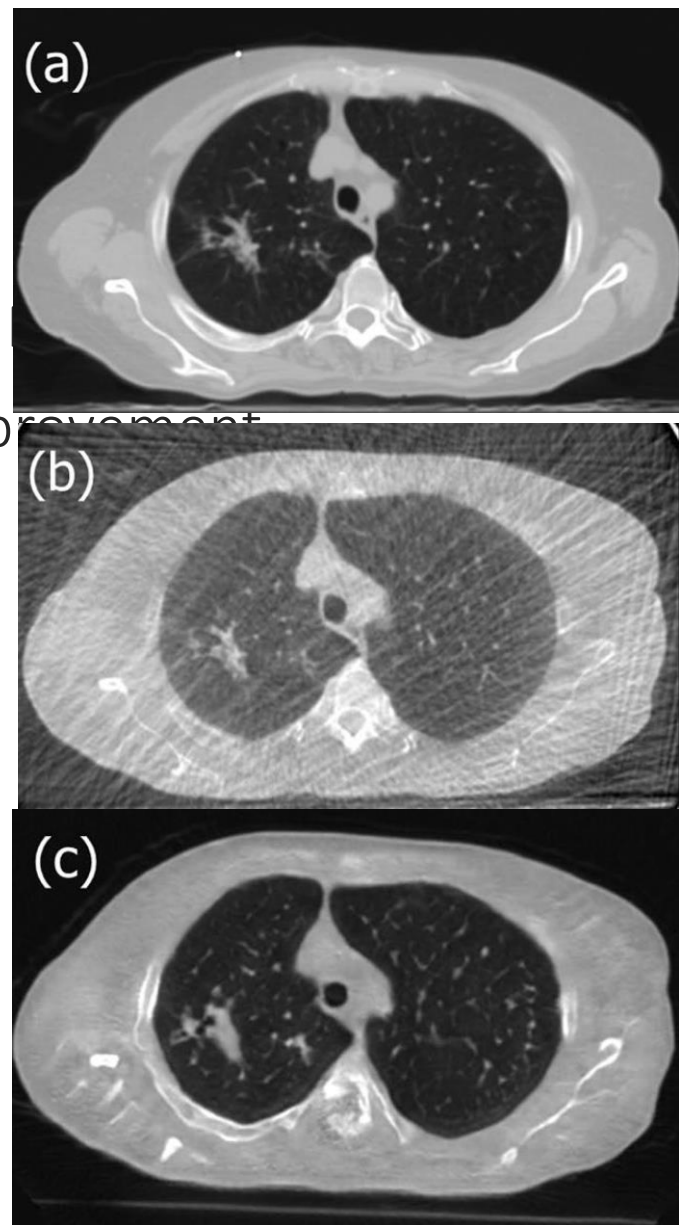
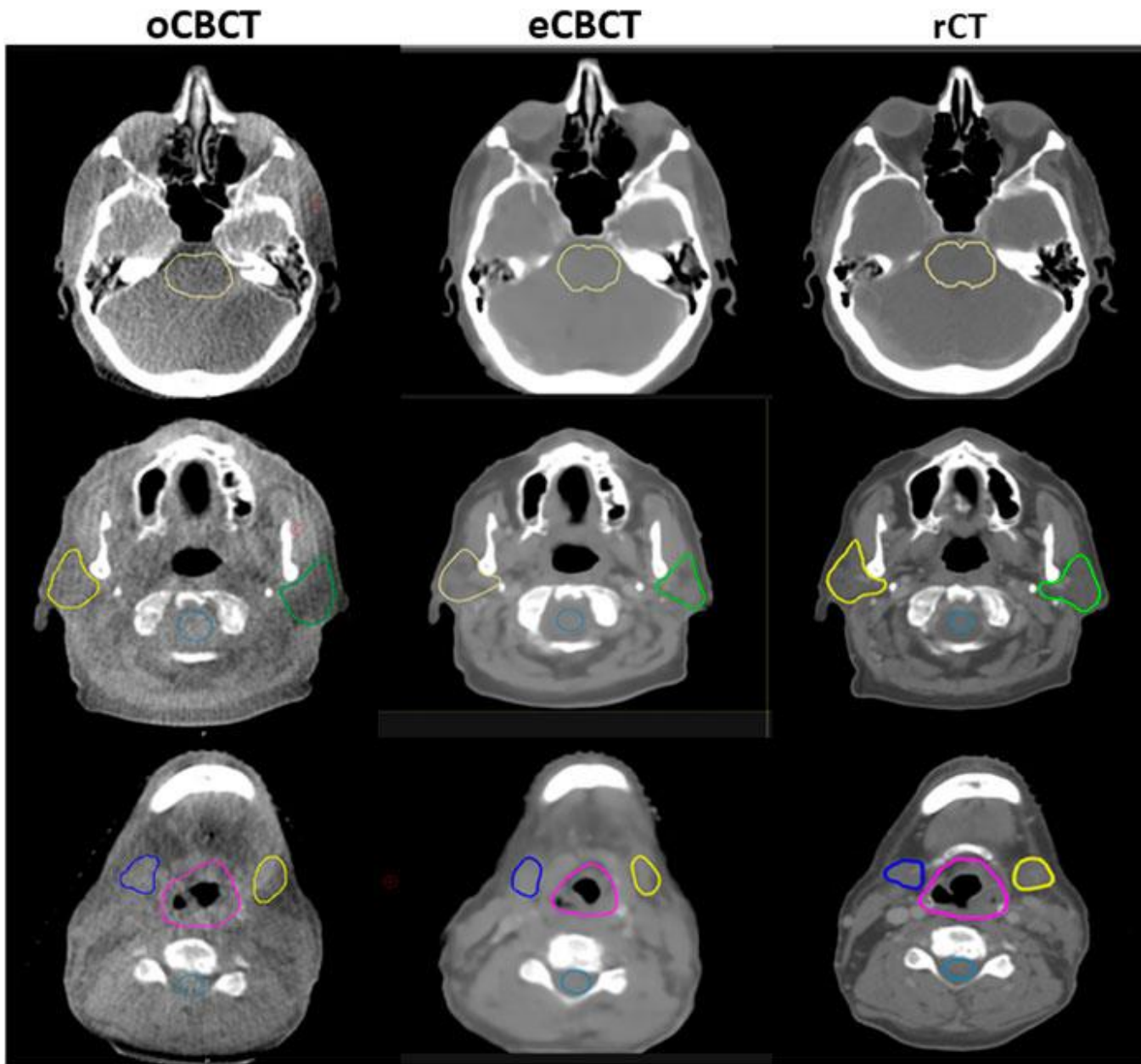
AI can help to

- Increase image quality

- Decrease additional radiation** (e.g. daily CBCT) during IGRT

- Helps in **adaptive radiation** therapy

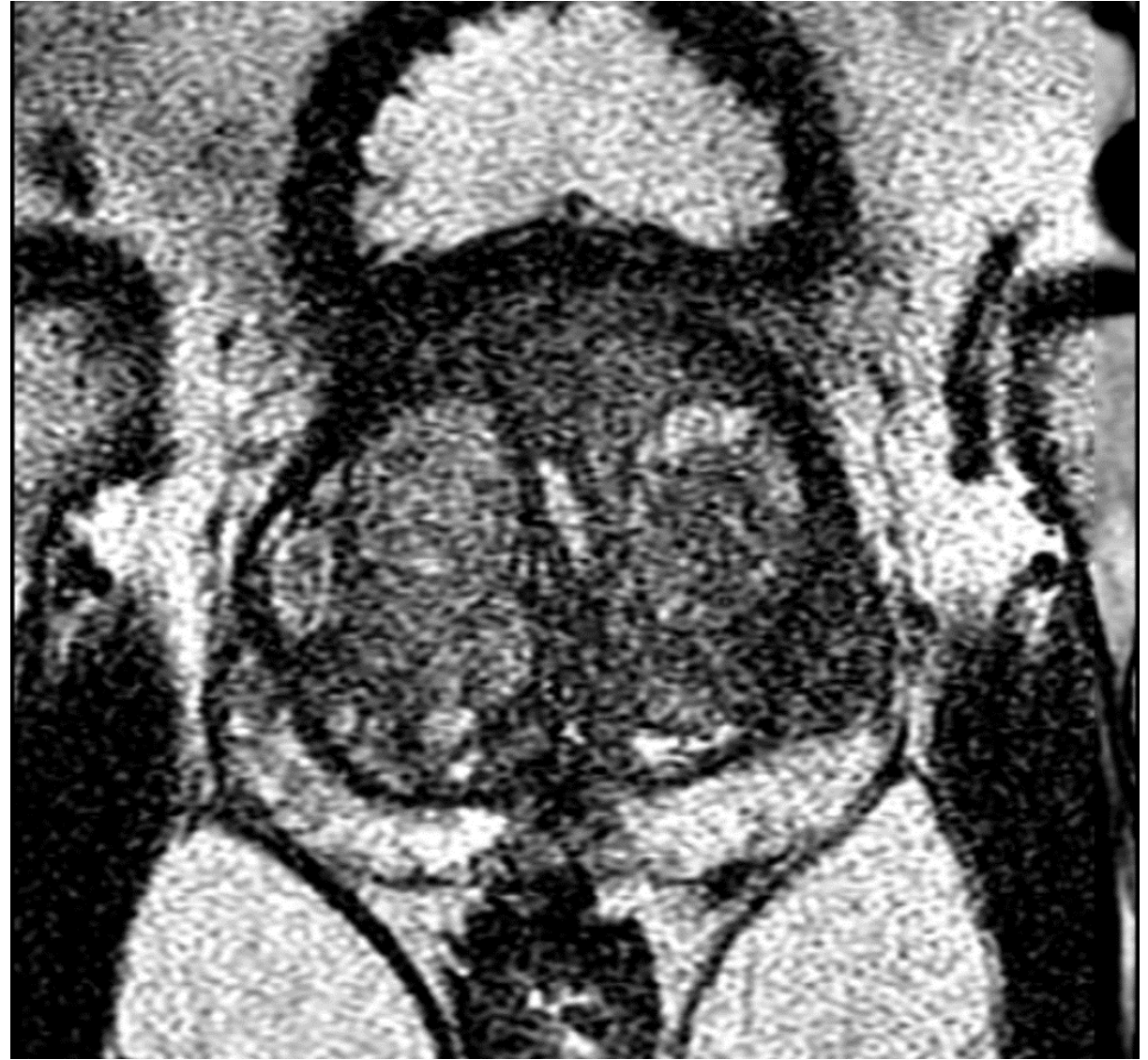
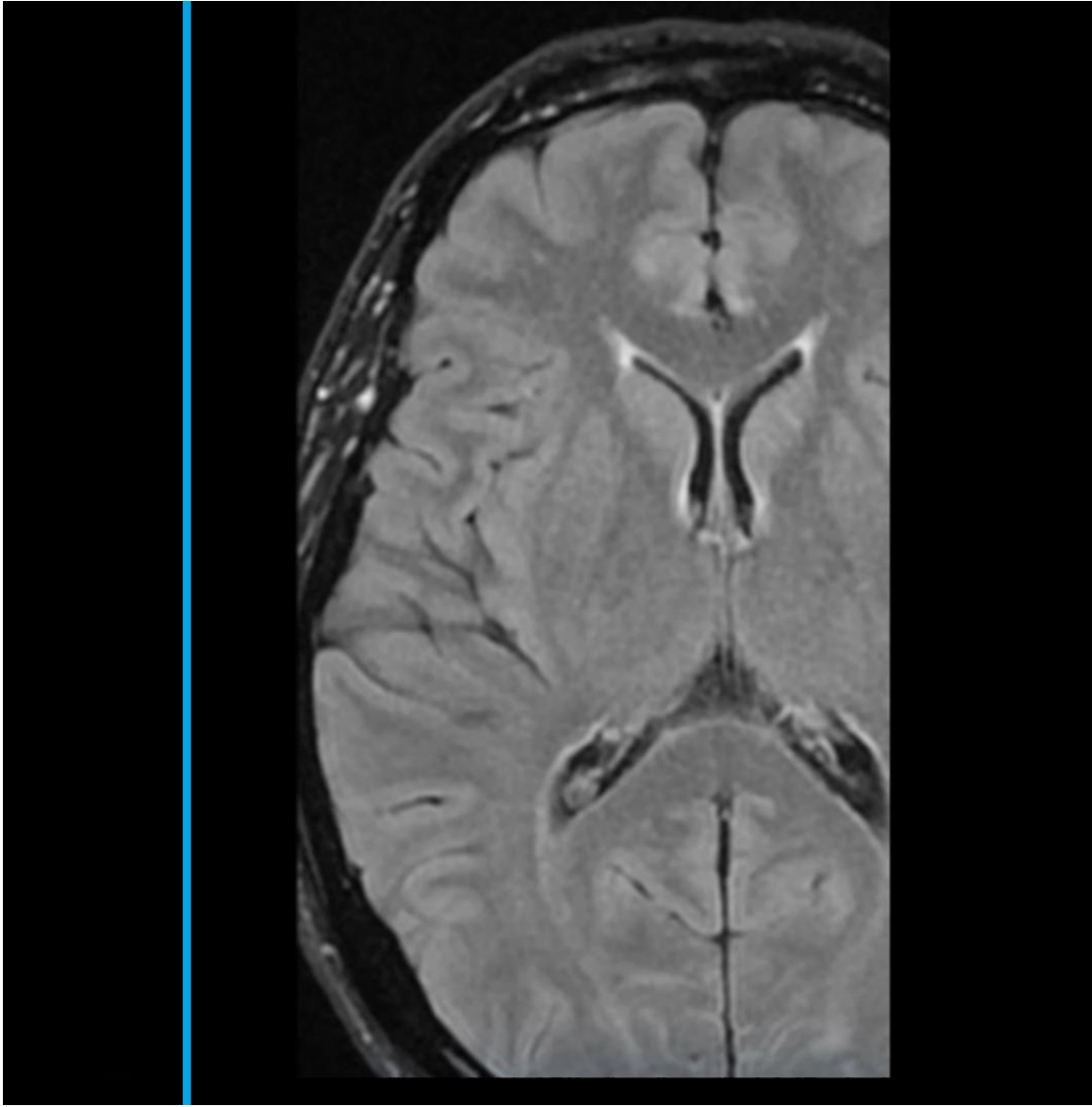




MSCT

4D CBCT

AI CBCT



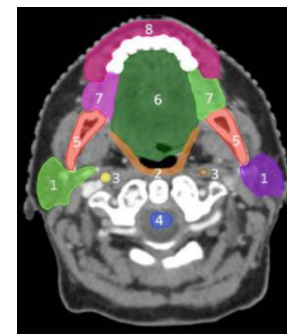
GE HEALTHCARE, courtesy of Almos Elekes

# Synthetic CT from MR / MR-only radiotherapy

Present workflow  
**MR-assisted**



Primary  
modality  
CT



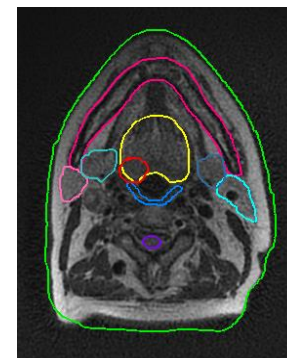
CT-based target  
and organ  
contouring



Registration



Supporting  
modality MR

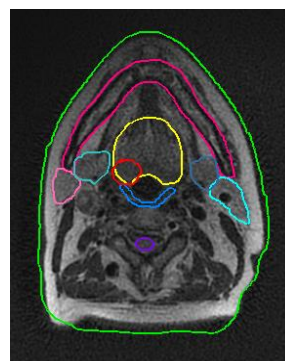


MR-based target  
and organ  
contouring

Future workflow  
**MR-only**



Primary  
modality  
MR



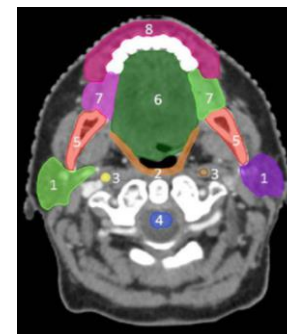
MR-based  
synthetic CT

# Synthetic CT from MR / MR-only radiotherapy

Present workflow  
**MR-assisted**



Primary  
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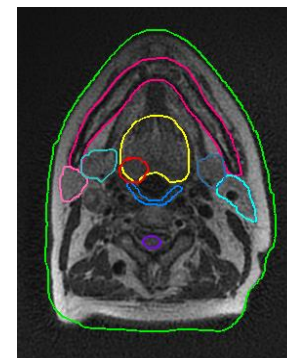
CT-based target  
and organ  
contouring



Registration



Supporting  
modality MR

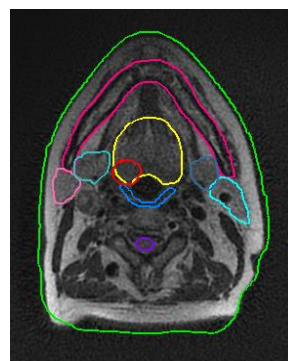


MR-based target  
and organ  
contouring

Future workflow  
**MR-only**

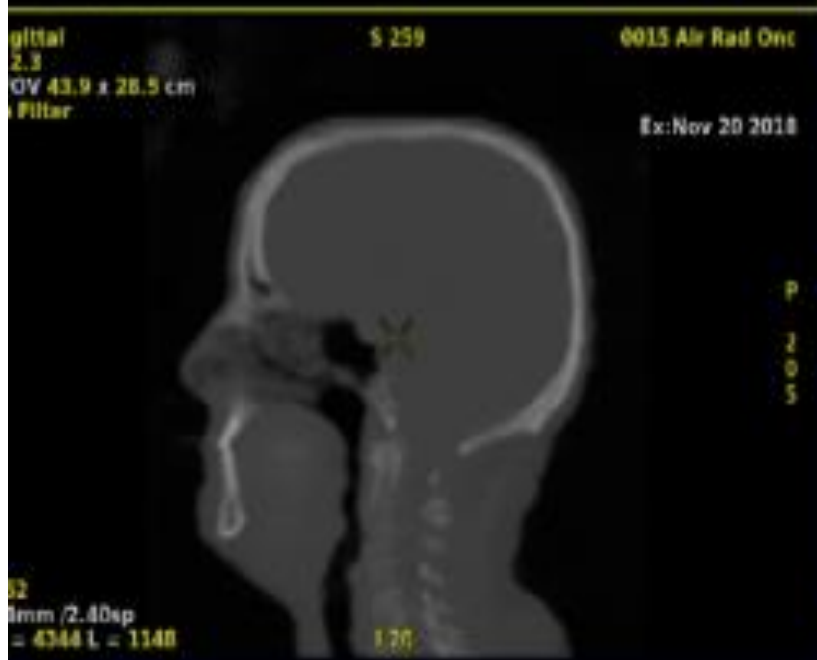
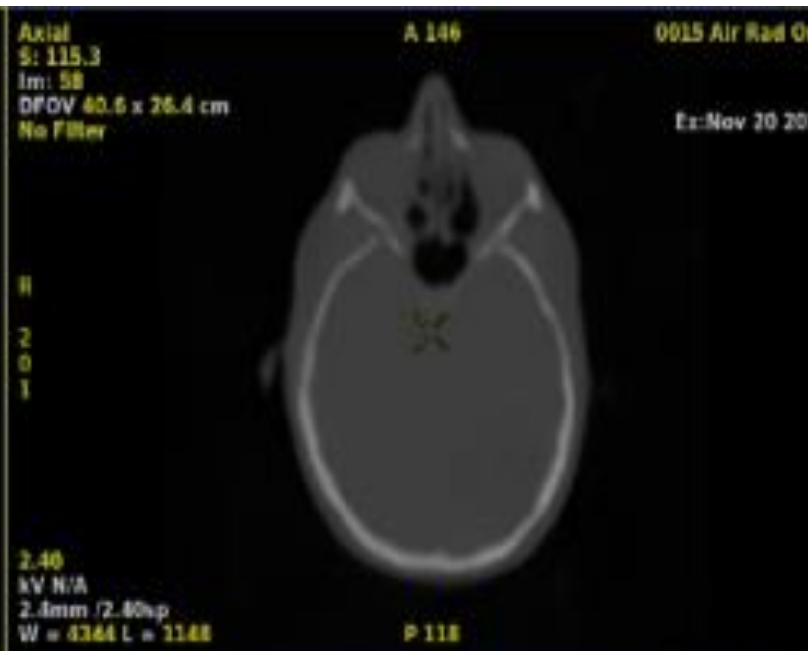


Primary  
modality  
MR

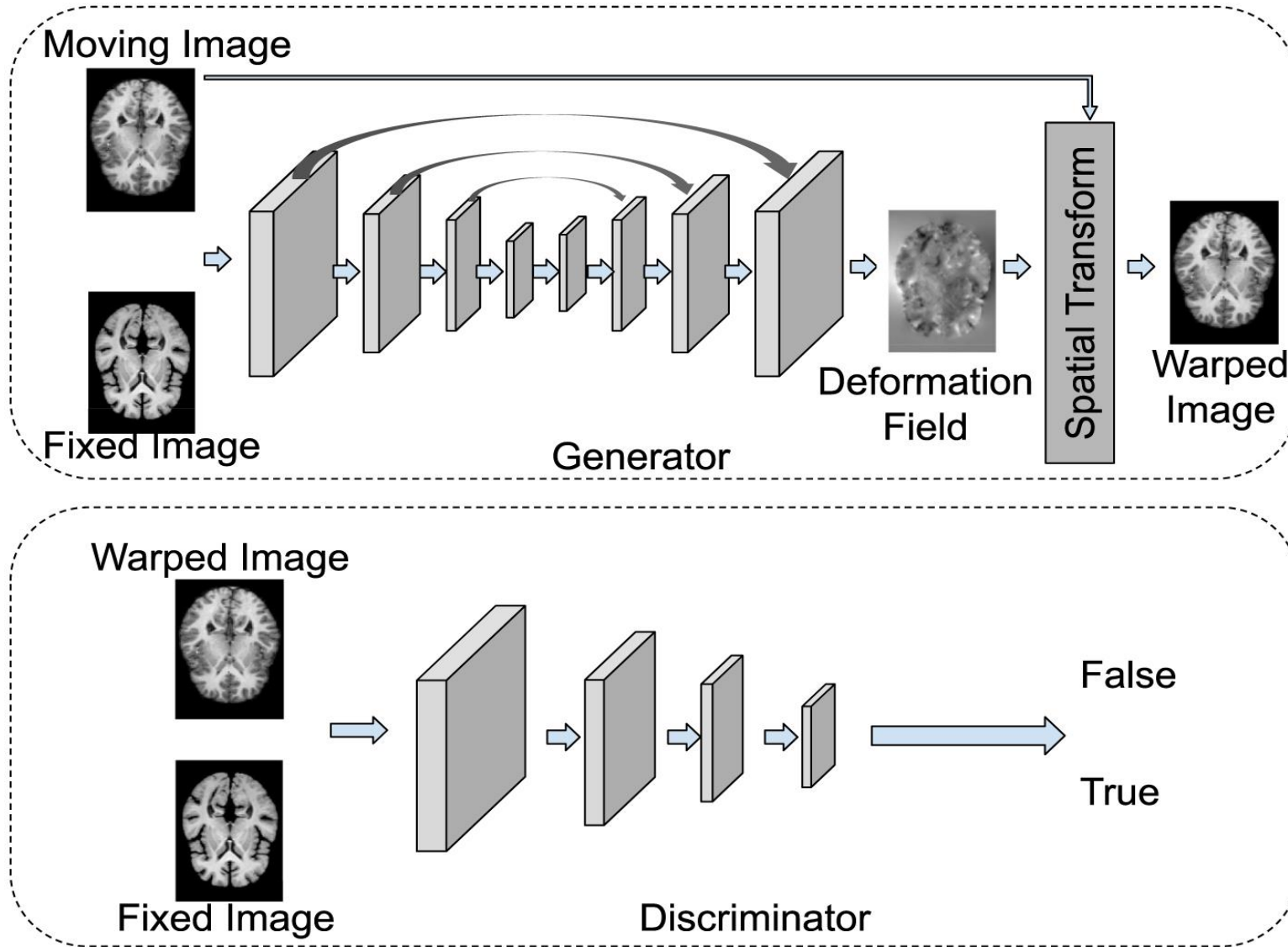


MR-based  
synthetic CT

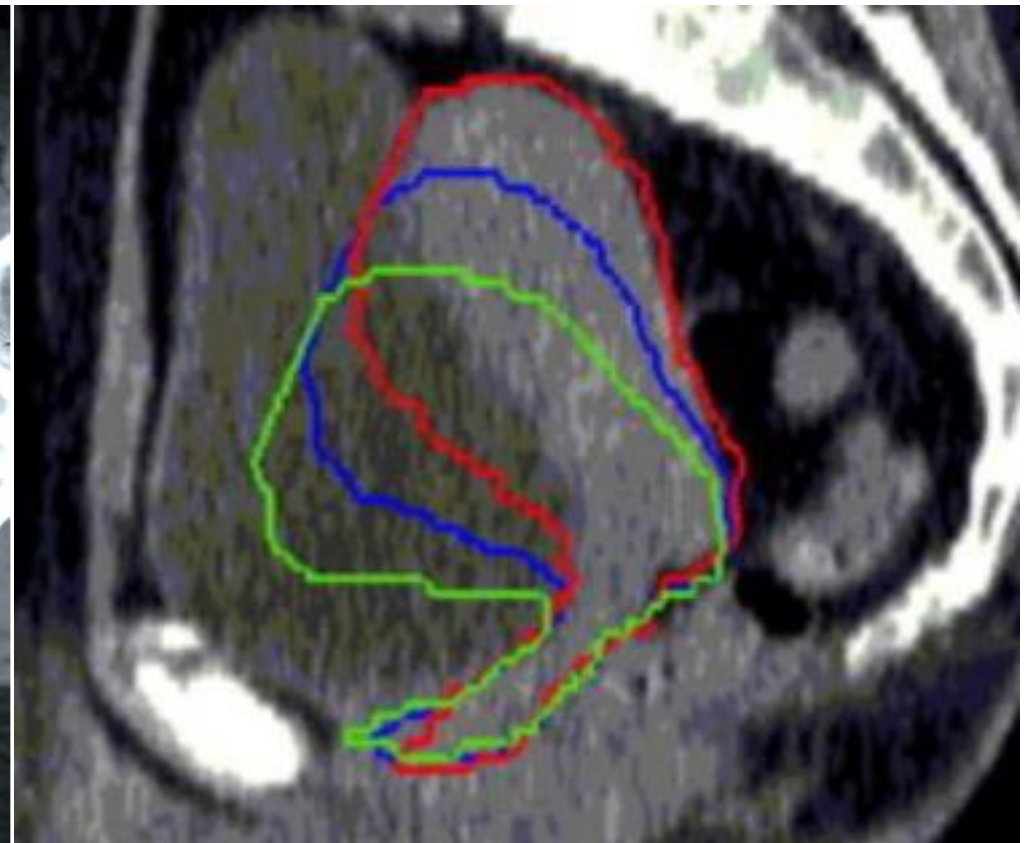
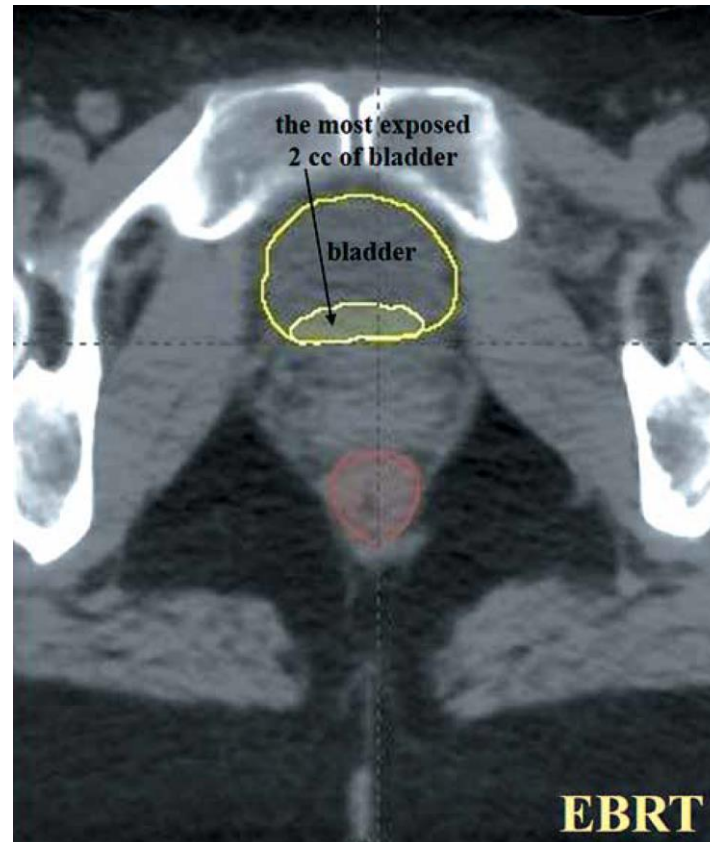
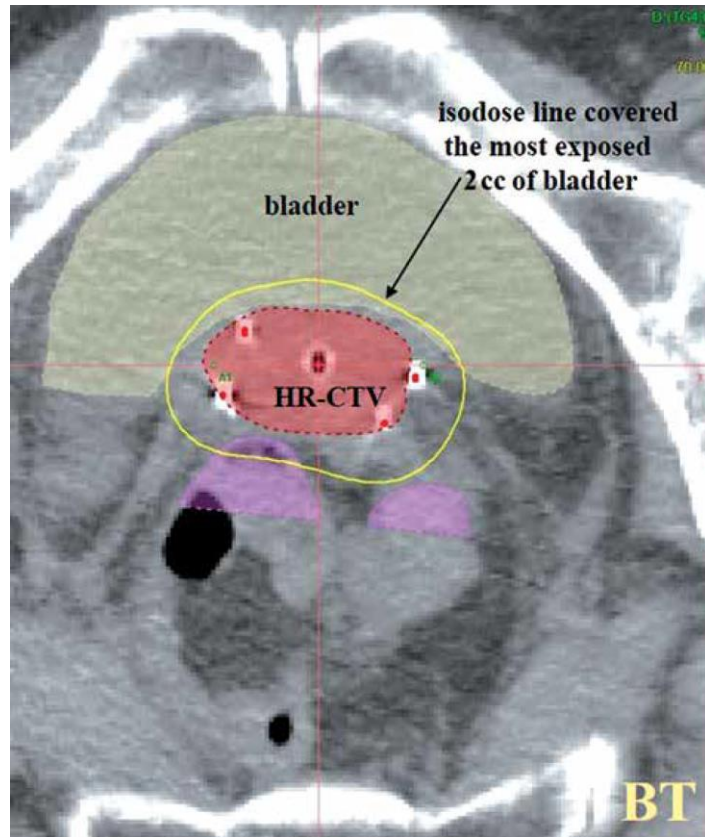
Courtesy of Laszlo Rusko, GE HEALTHCARE



# Deformable image registration



# Dose summation / adaptive radiotherapy



# Autocontouring OAR / target volumes

Quality of **segmentation** influences

- Tumour control

- Side effects

Auto segmentation offers

- Consistency**

- Decreased **inter-observer variability**

- More accurate **dose calculation**

- Decrease in the need of **human resources**

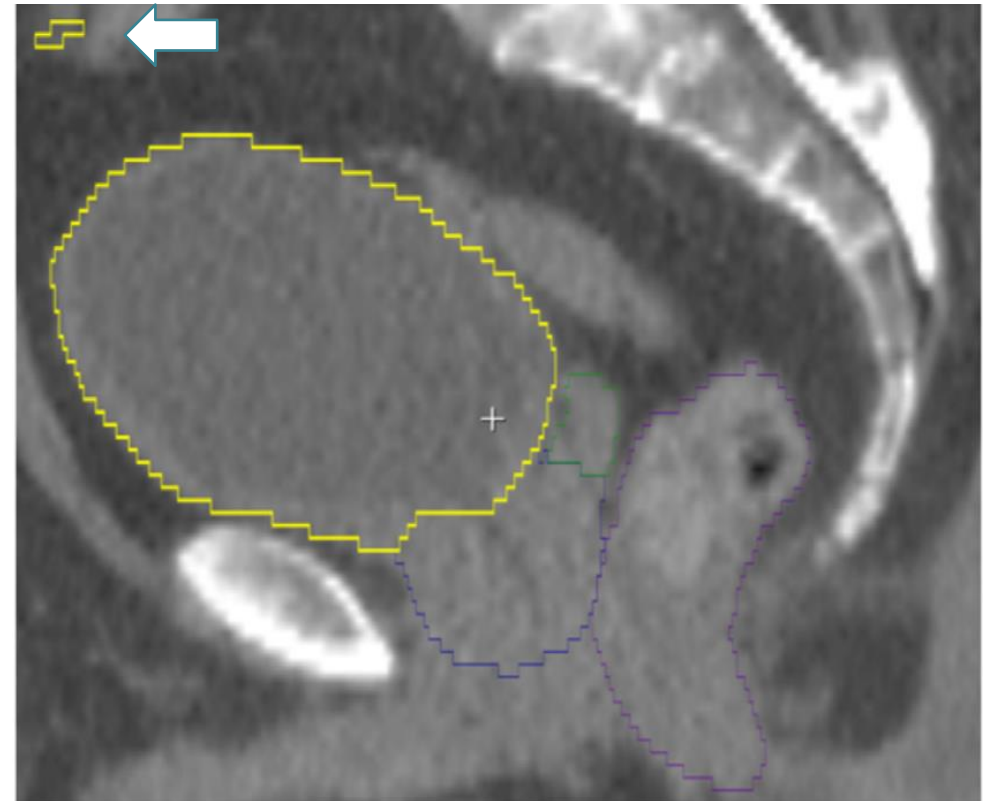
**Challenges**

- Image quality

- Artefacts

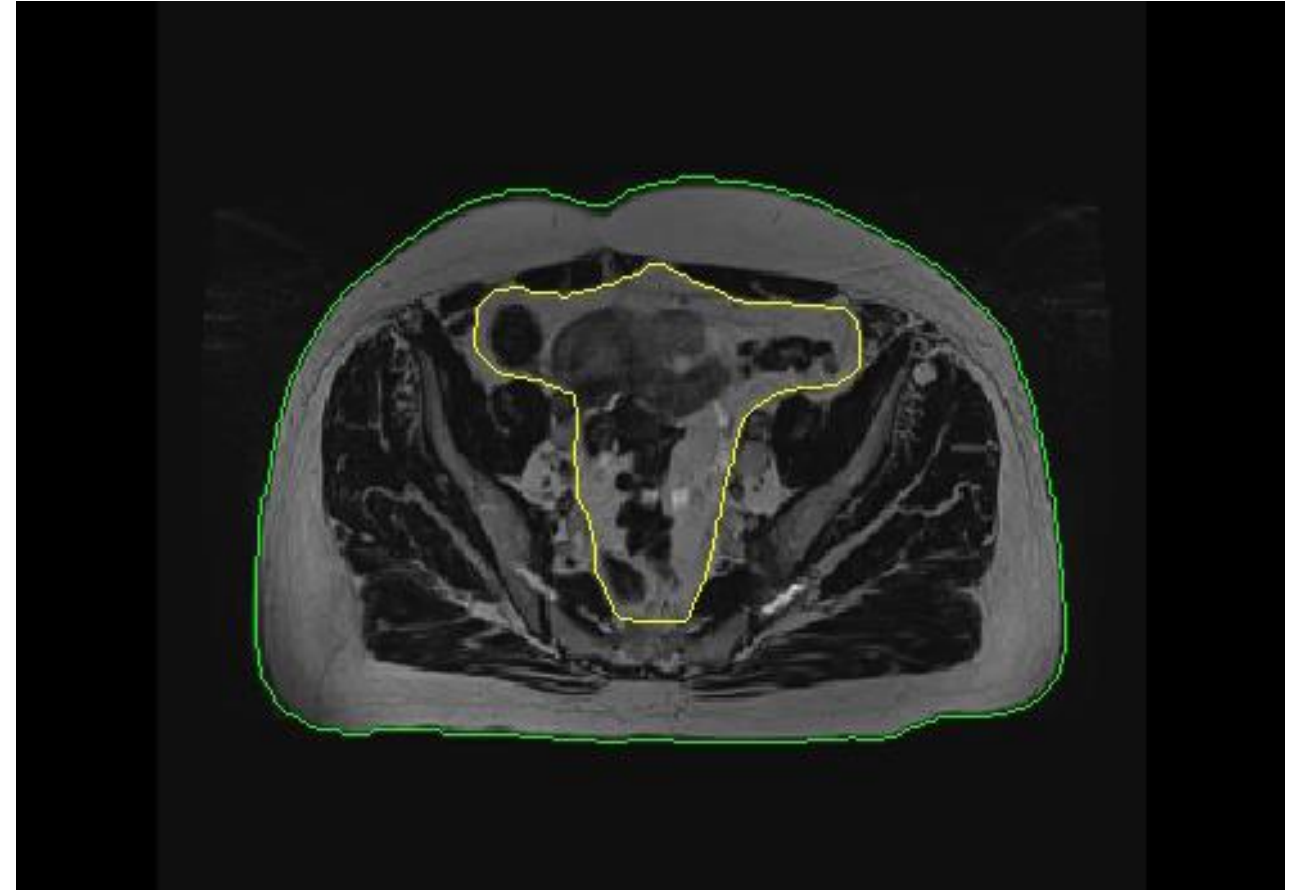
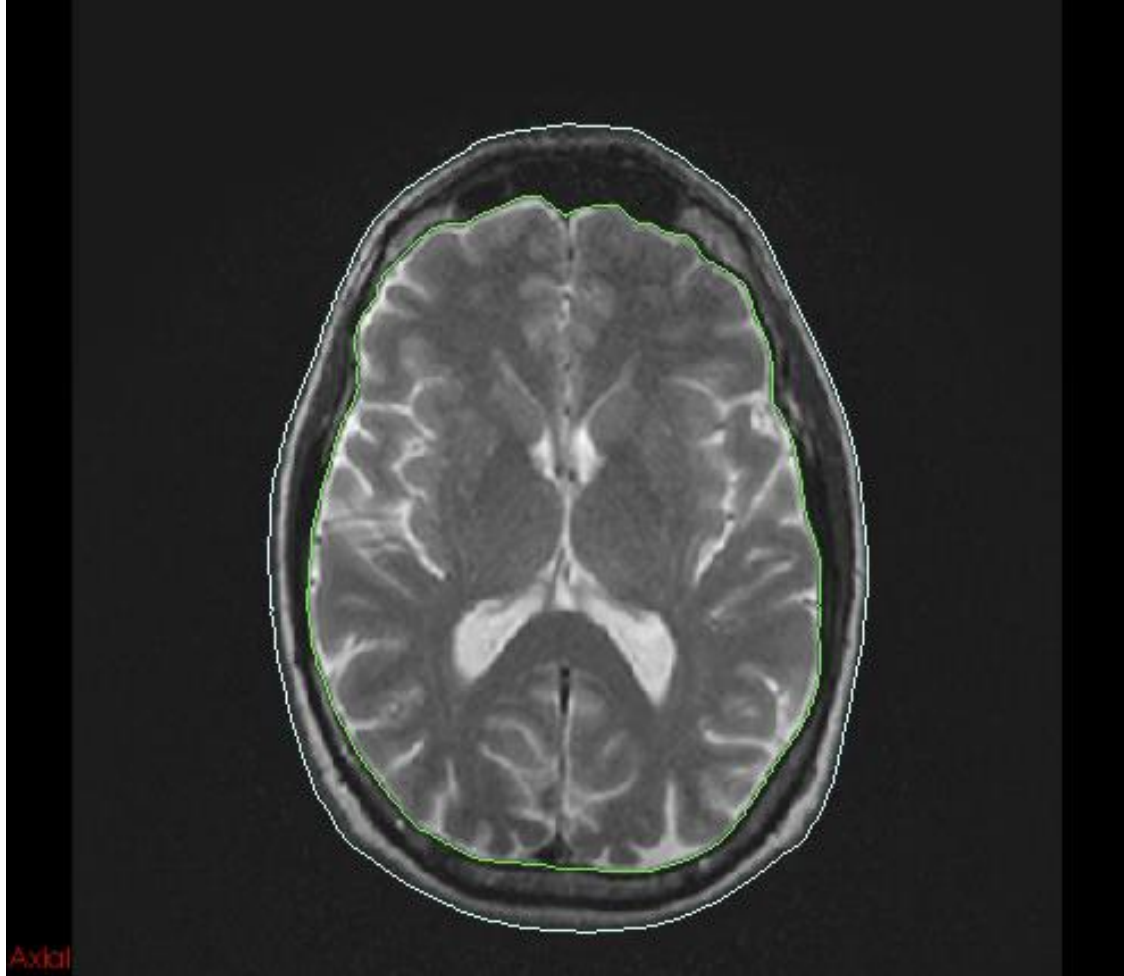
- Delineation accuracy (post processing)

- Small errors

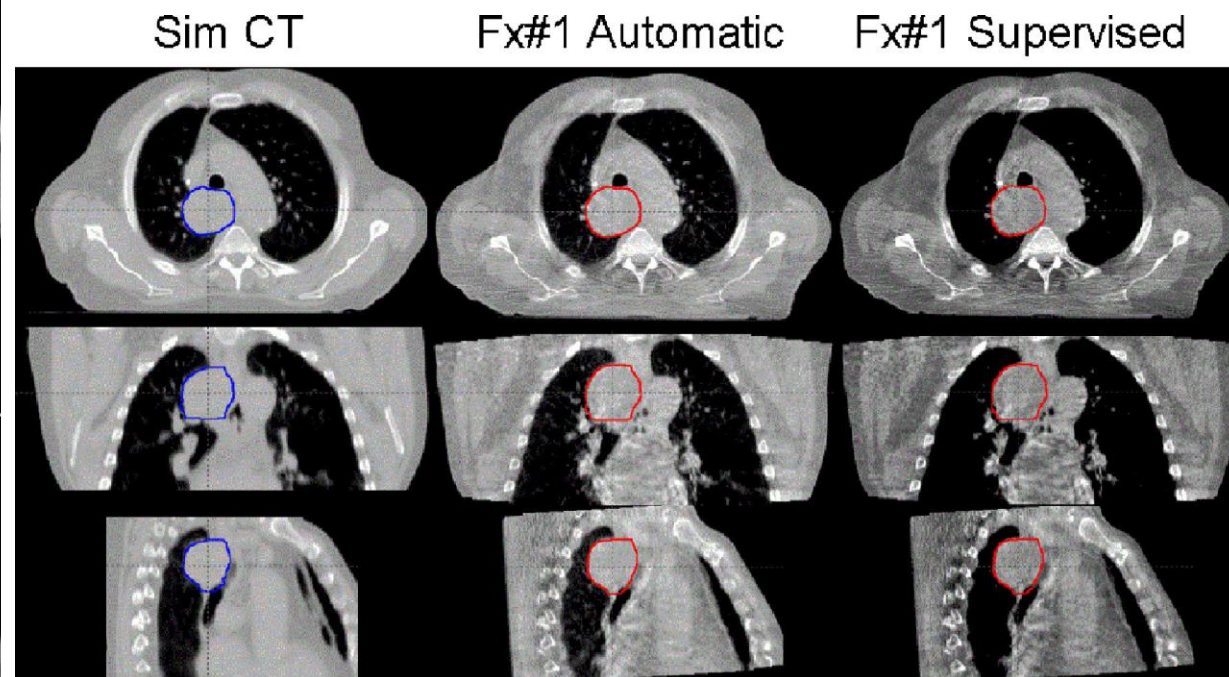
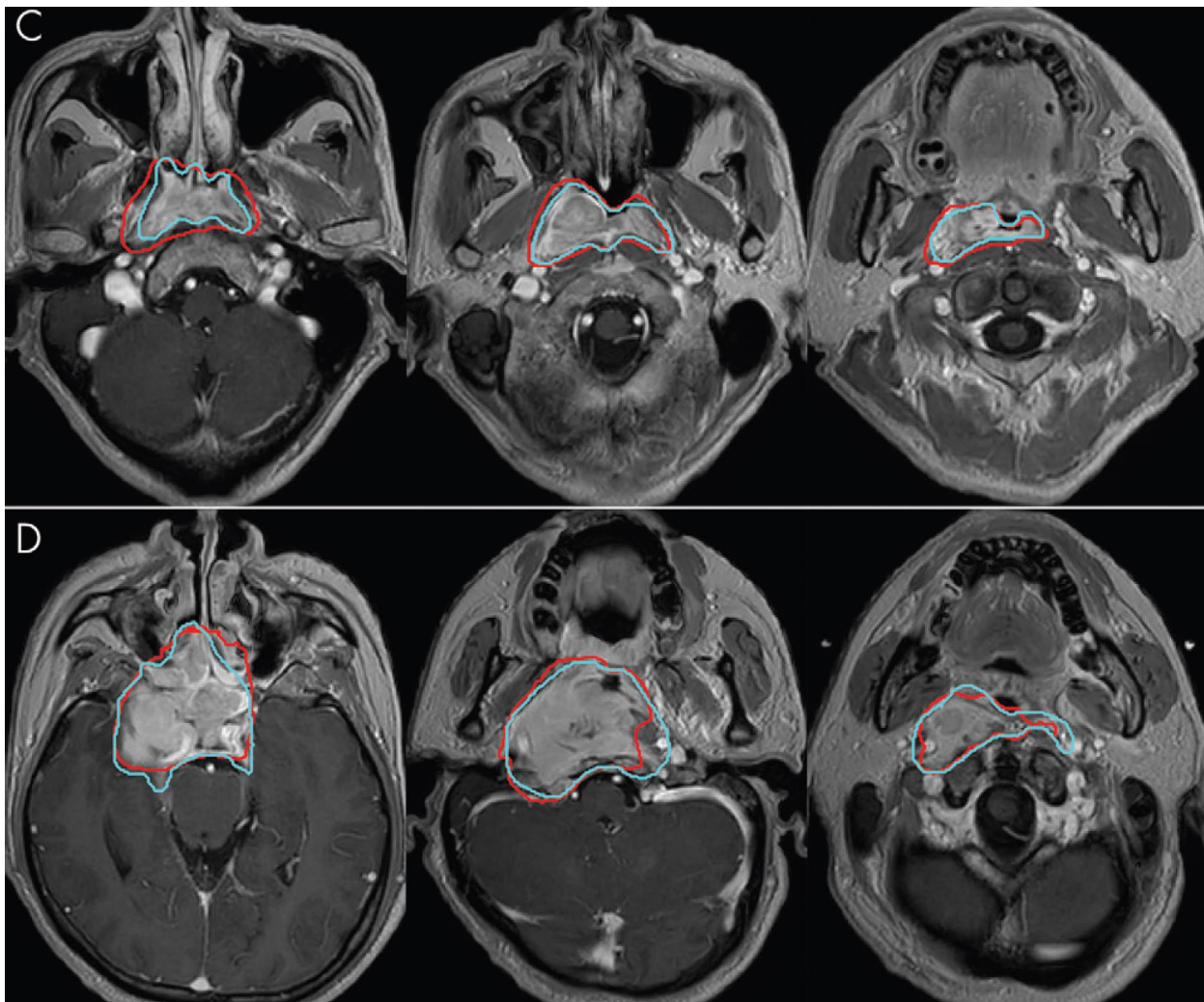


CERN IdeaSquare J Exp Innov 2017;1:3e12

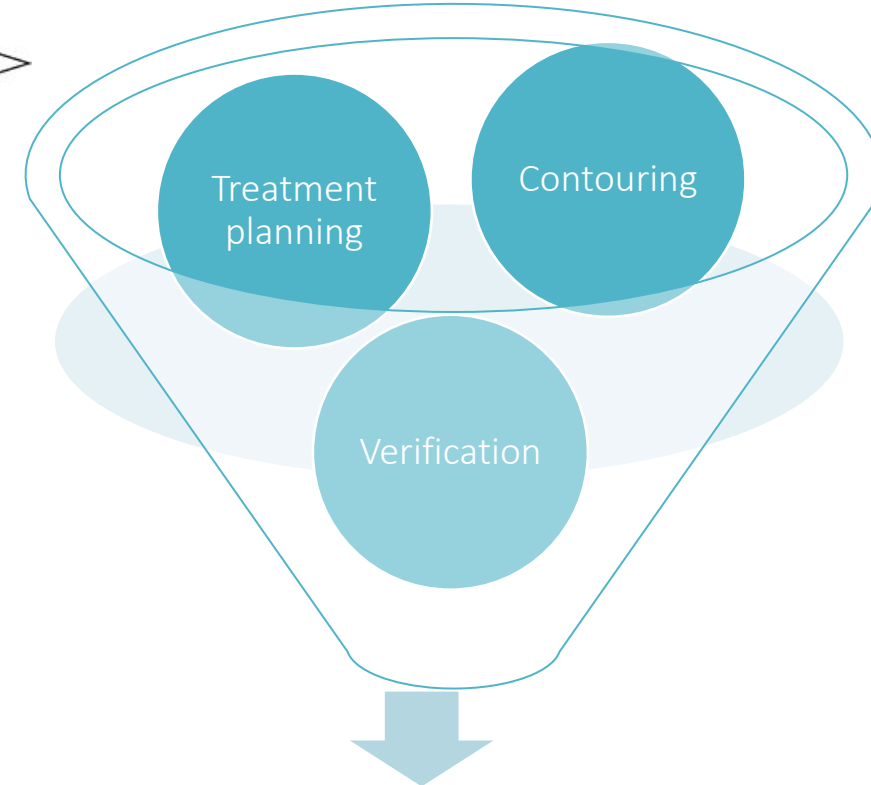




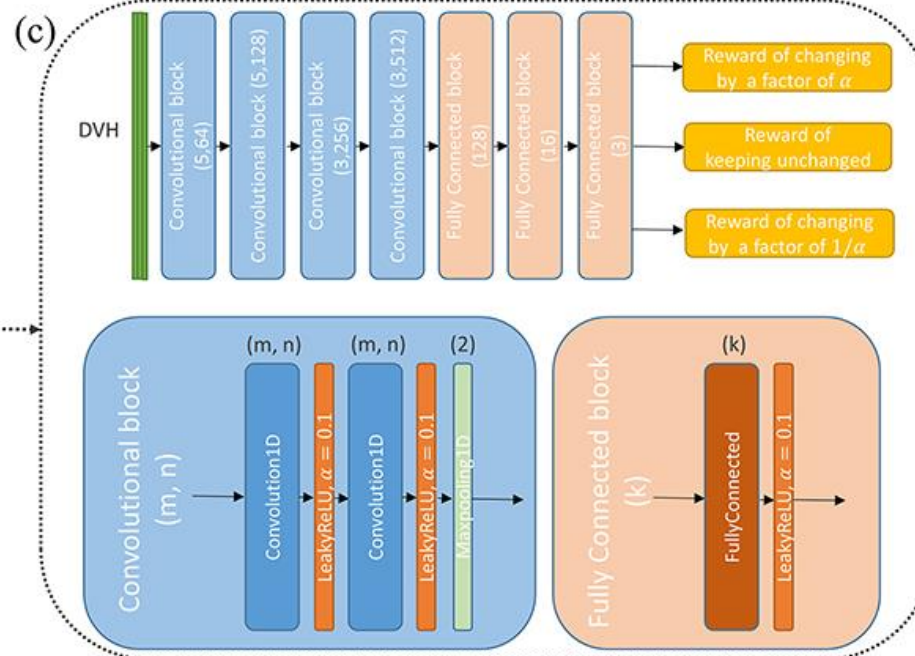
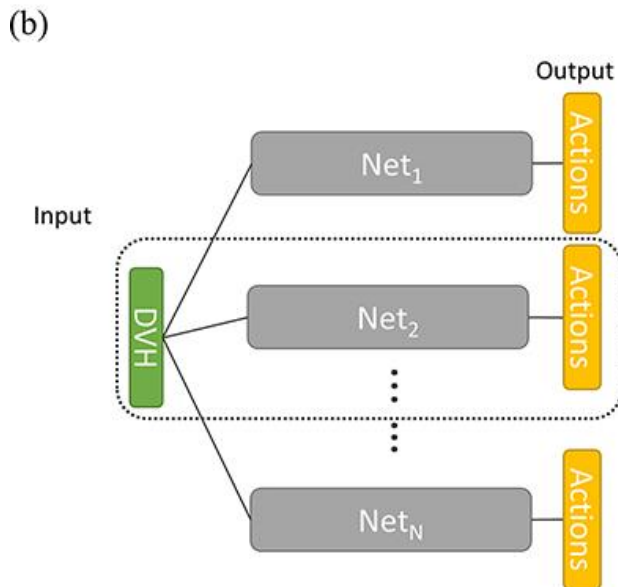
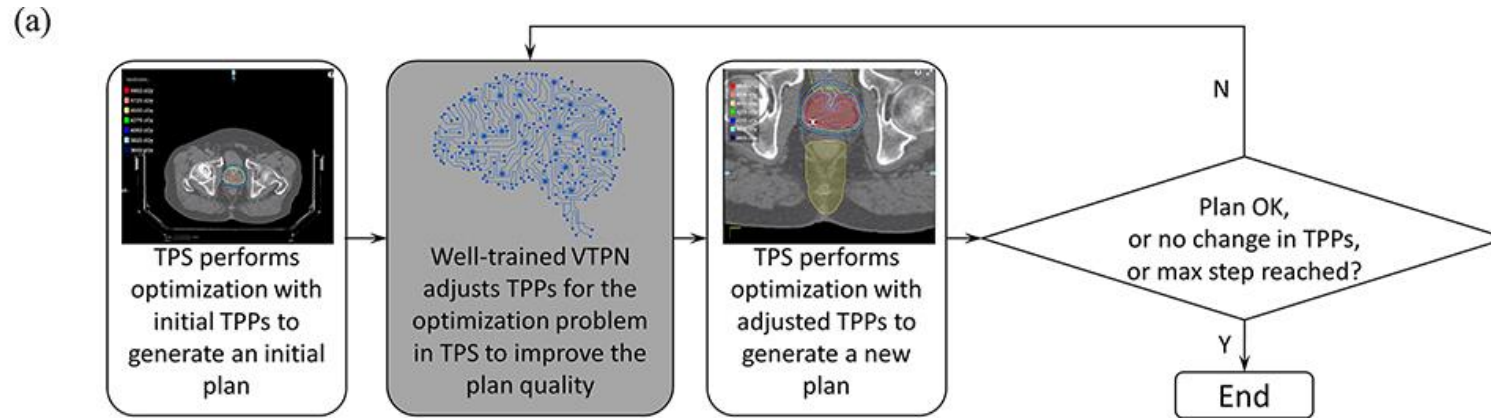
Courtesy of Laszlo Rusko, GE HEALTHCARE



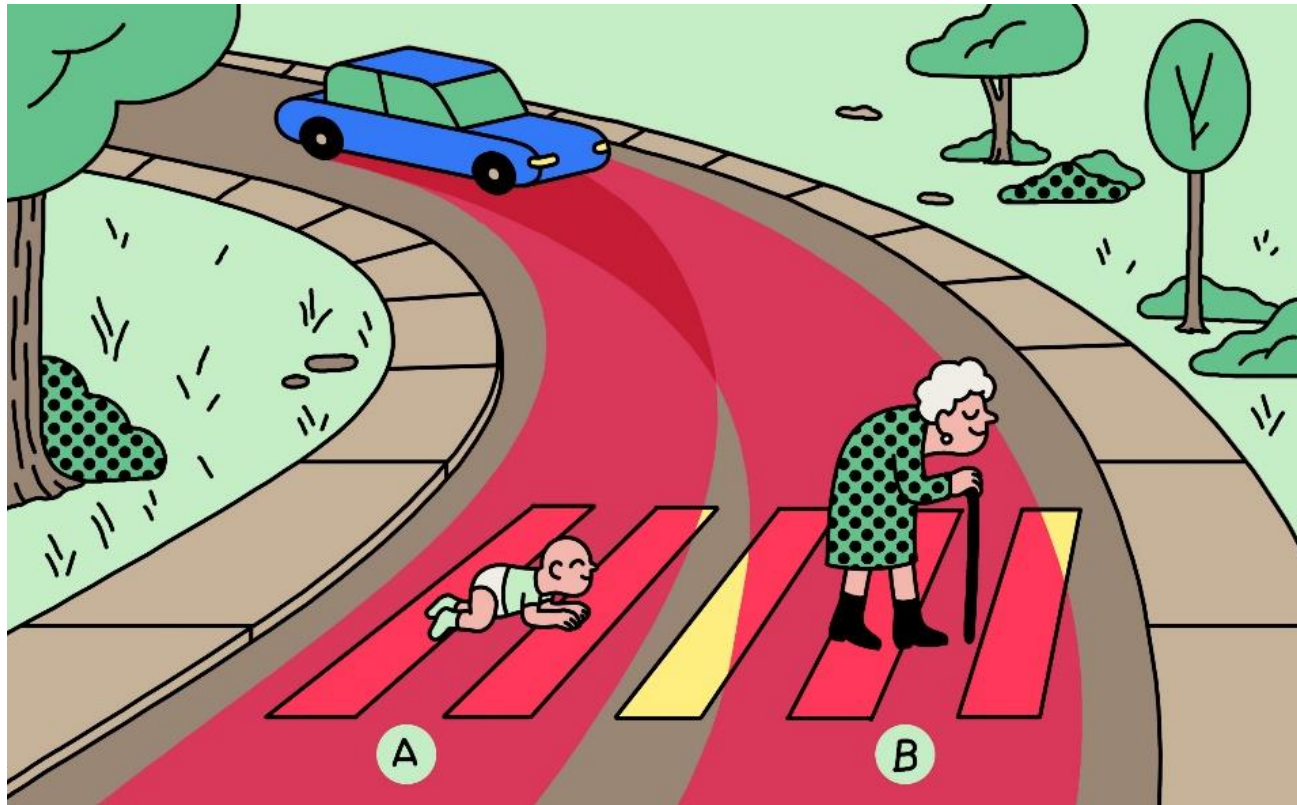
# (Fully) Automated planning



**Ready and verified plan**



# (Fully) Automated planning



MIT technology review

**Competition** between

**Effect** (local control) and **side effects**

**Between** side effects

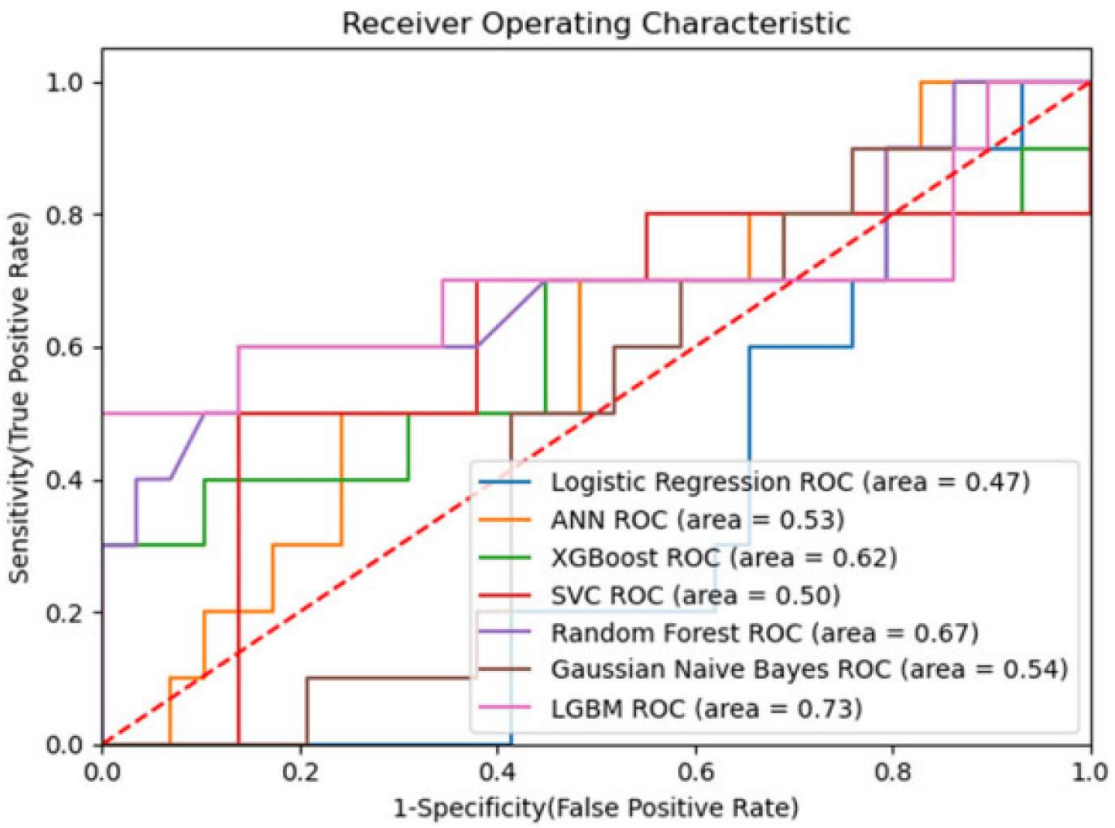
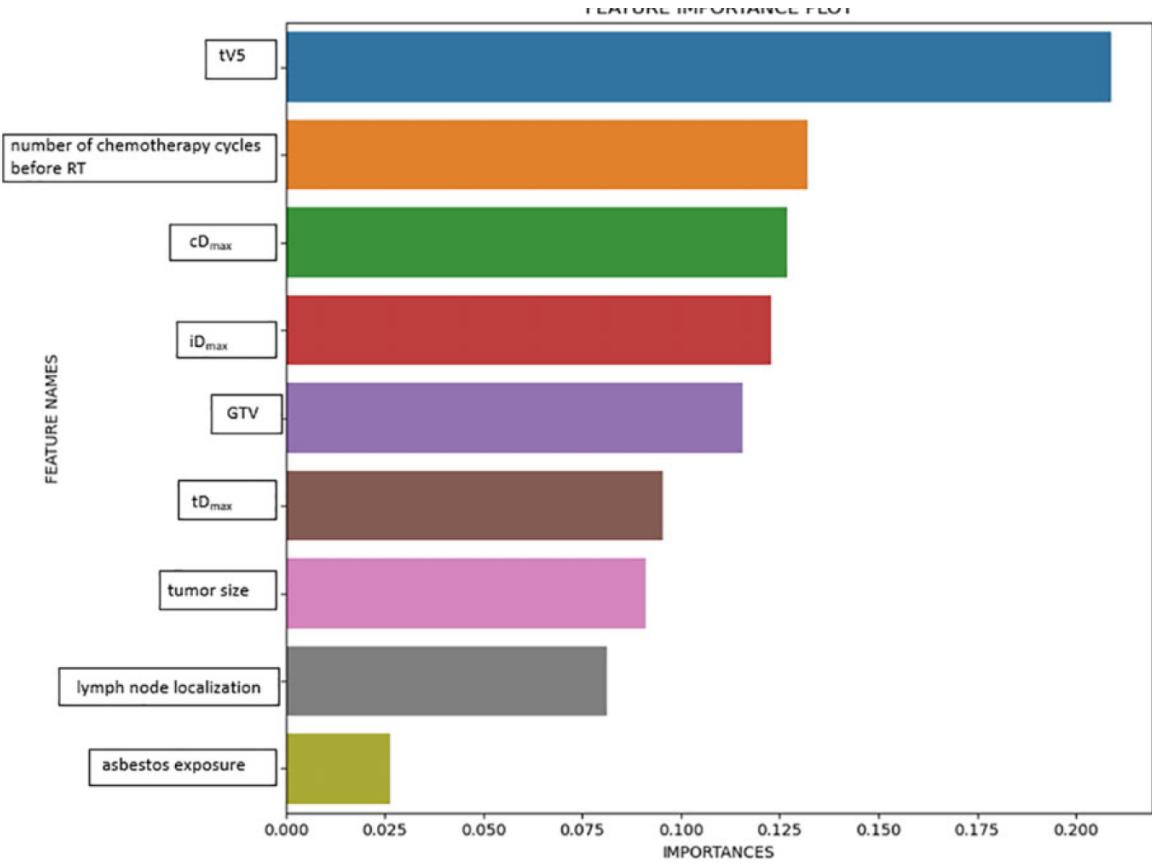
Young curable female cancer patient

Breast dose weight?

Coronary artery dose weight?

Secondary cancer or heart disease?

# Outcome prediction – side effects

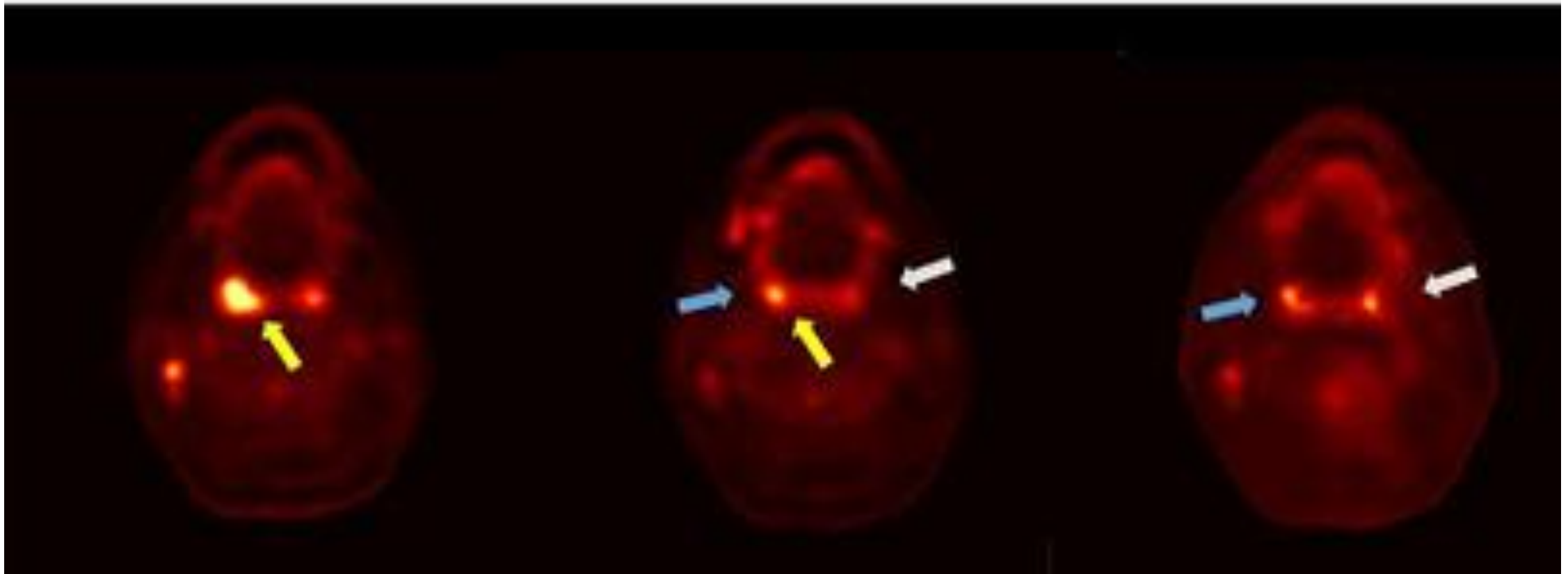


# Outcome prediction – local control

Pre-RT  
PET

Ground Truth  
Intra-RT PET

Predicted  
Intra-RT PET

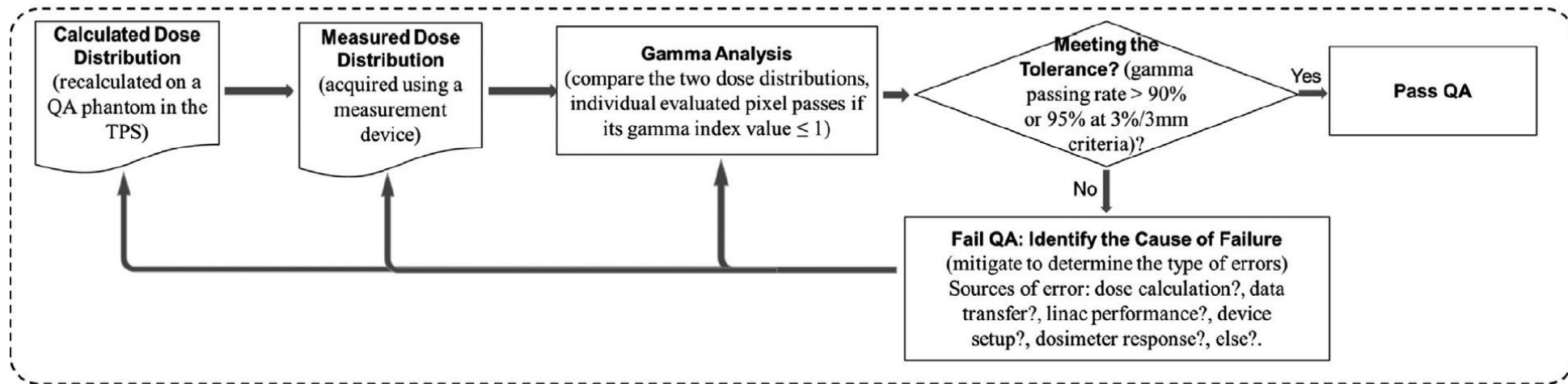


# Quality assurance – machine level

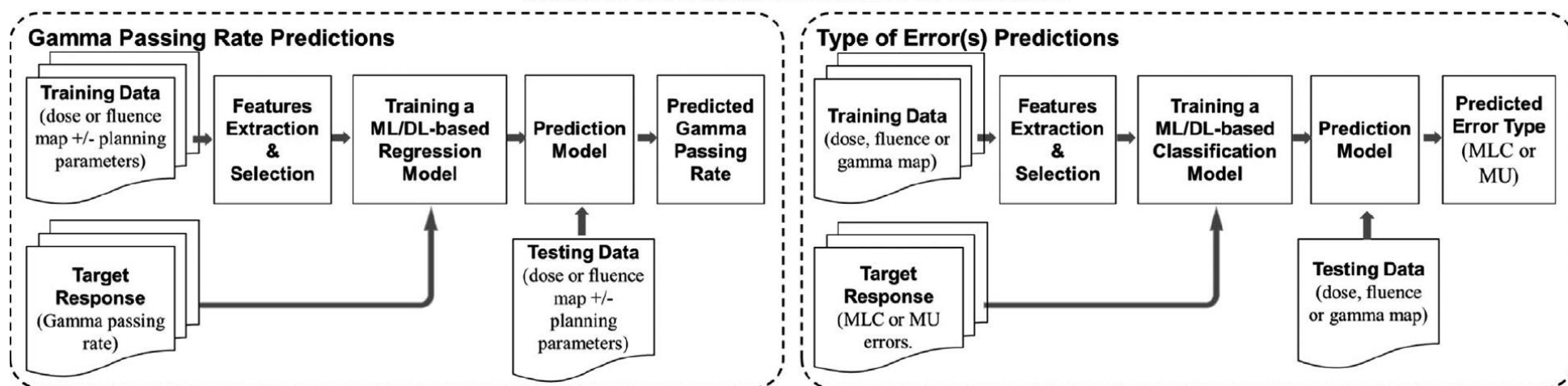
References	QA Source	Data Source	ML Model	Task
Carlson et al. (2016)	DICOM_RT, Dynalog files	74 VMAT plans	Regression, Random Forest, Cubist	MLC Position Errors Detection
Li and Chan (2017)	Daily QA Device	5-year Daily QA Data	ANN Time-Series, ARIMA Models	Symmetry Prediction
Sun et al. (2018)	Ion Chamber	1,754 Proton Fields	Random Forrest, XGBoost, Cubist	Output for Compact Proton Machine
El Naqa et al. (2019)	EPID	119 Images from 8 Linacs	Support Vector Data Description, Clustering	Gantry Sag, Radiation Field Shift, MLC Offset
Grewal et al. (2020)	Ion Chamber	4,231 Proton Fields	Gaussian Processes, Shallow NN	Output and Patient QA Proton Machine
Osman et al. (2020)	log files	400 machine delivery log files	ANN	MLC Discrepancies during Delivery & Feedback
Chuang et al. (in press)	Trajectory log files	116 IMRT plans, 125 VMAT plans	Boosted Tree Outperformed LR	MLC Discrepancies during Delivery & Feedback
Zhao et al. (in press)	Water Tank Measurement	43 Truebeam PDD, Profiles	Multivariate Regression (Ridge)	Modeling of Beam Data Linac Commissioning

# Quality assurance – patient level

**Conventional Clinically Adopted Measurement-Based IMRT/VMAT QA Workflow**



**Virtual ML/DL-Based IMRT/VMAT QA Workflow**





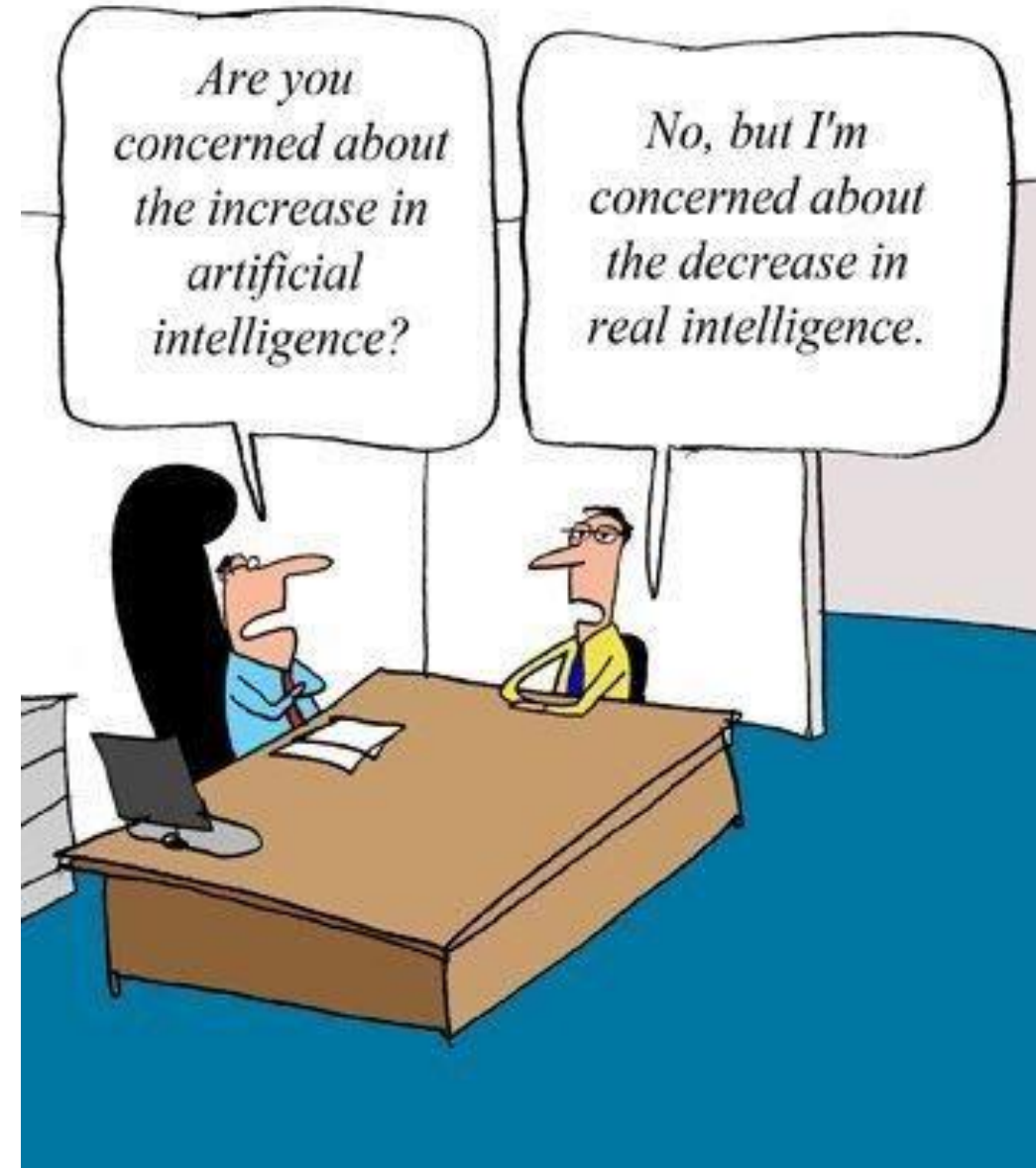
# Are there threats from AI?



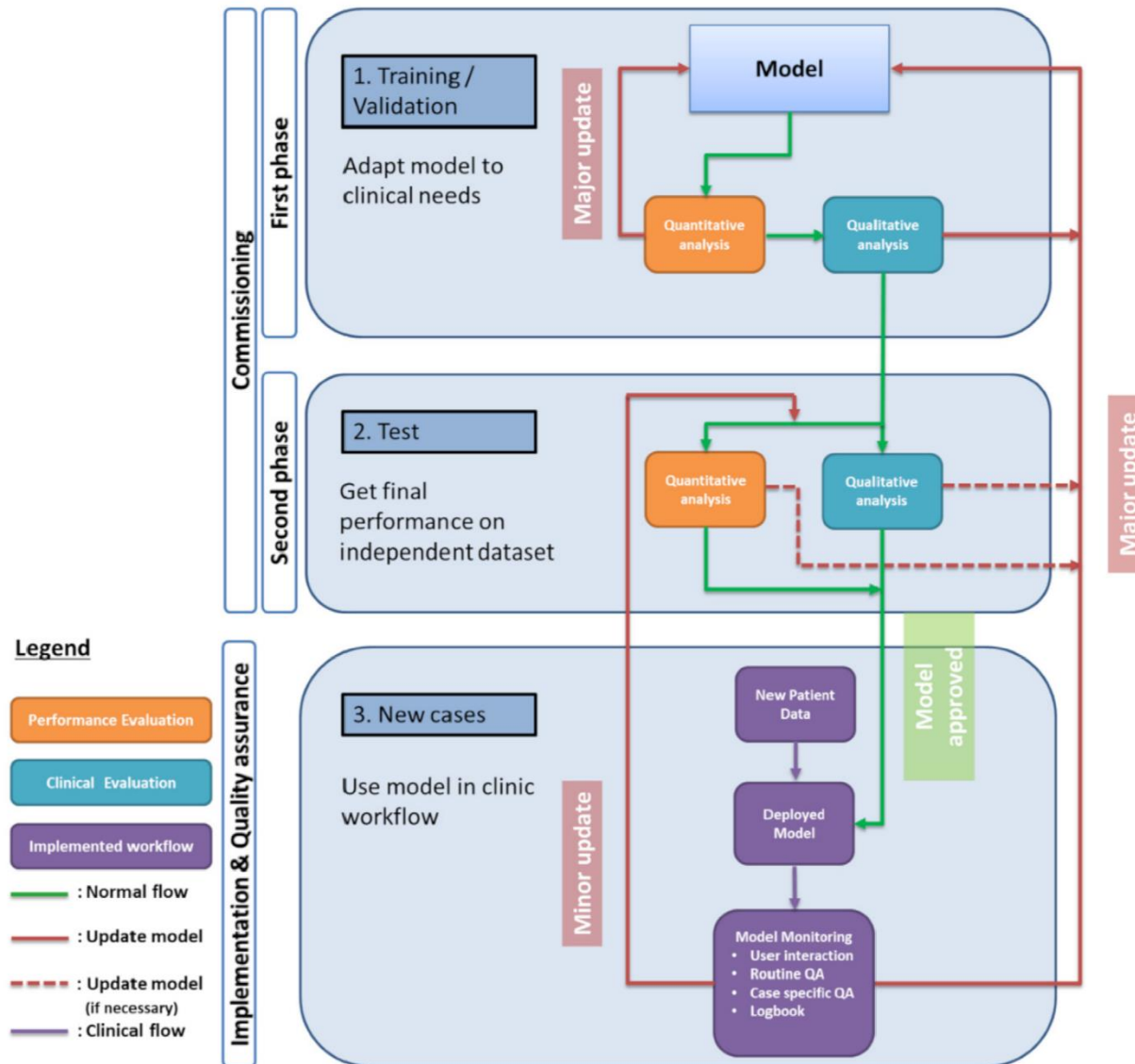
timoelliott.com

*“We’re outsourcing all our critical business decisions to a flawed algorithm with insufficient data — what could possibly go wrong?!”*

**Inappropriate use** of AI technique



# Commissioning of AI in radiation oncology



# AI techniques we use (at least what I know about)

## Autocontouring

Two systems we used

We did not do formal commissioning, the radiographer checks the OAR and occasionally the radiation oncologist

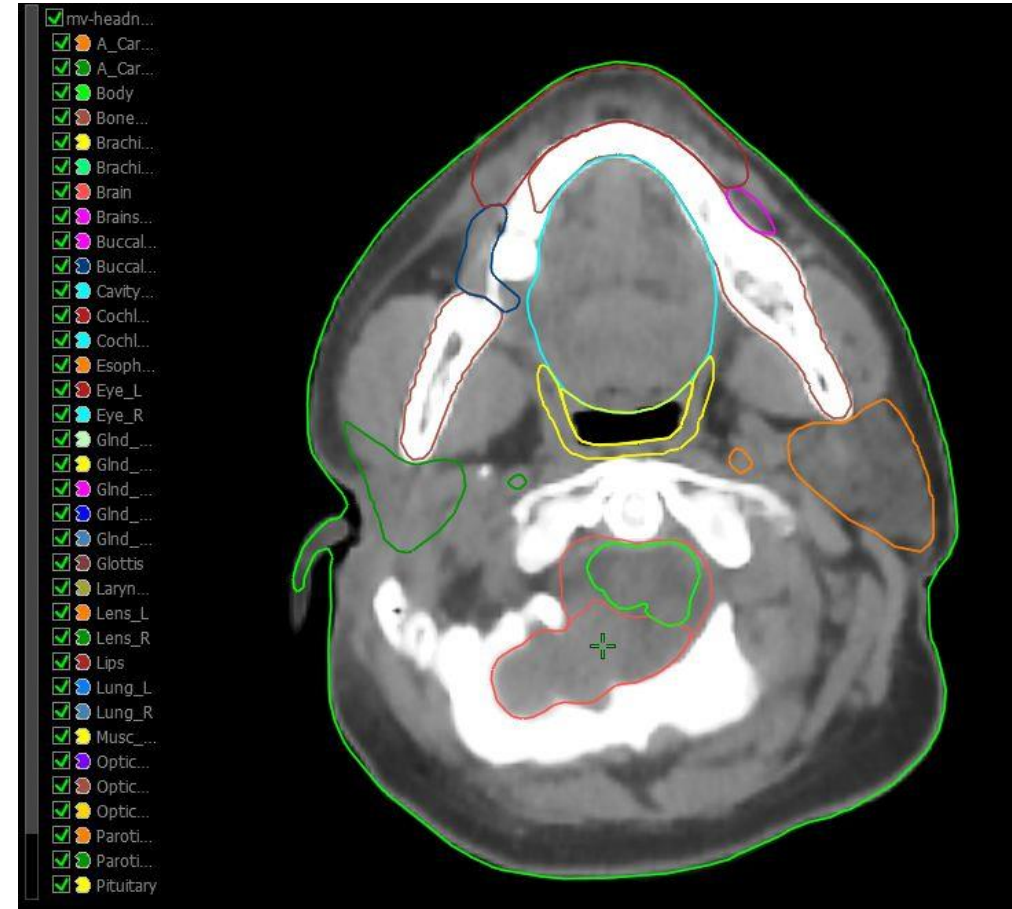
Significantly **reduces time** of OAR contouring

*3+3 minutes of up and downloading to the clouds*

*10 minutes of post processing is required*

*Lot of „unnecessary“ contours are available*

MR based contouring is not yet available (e.g. hippocampus) at every vendor

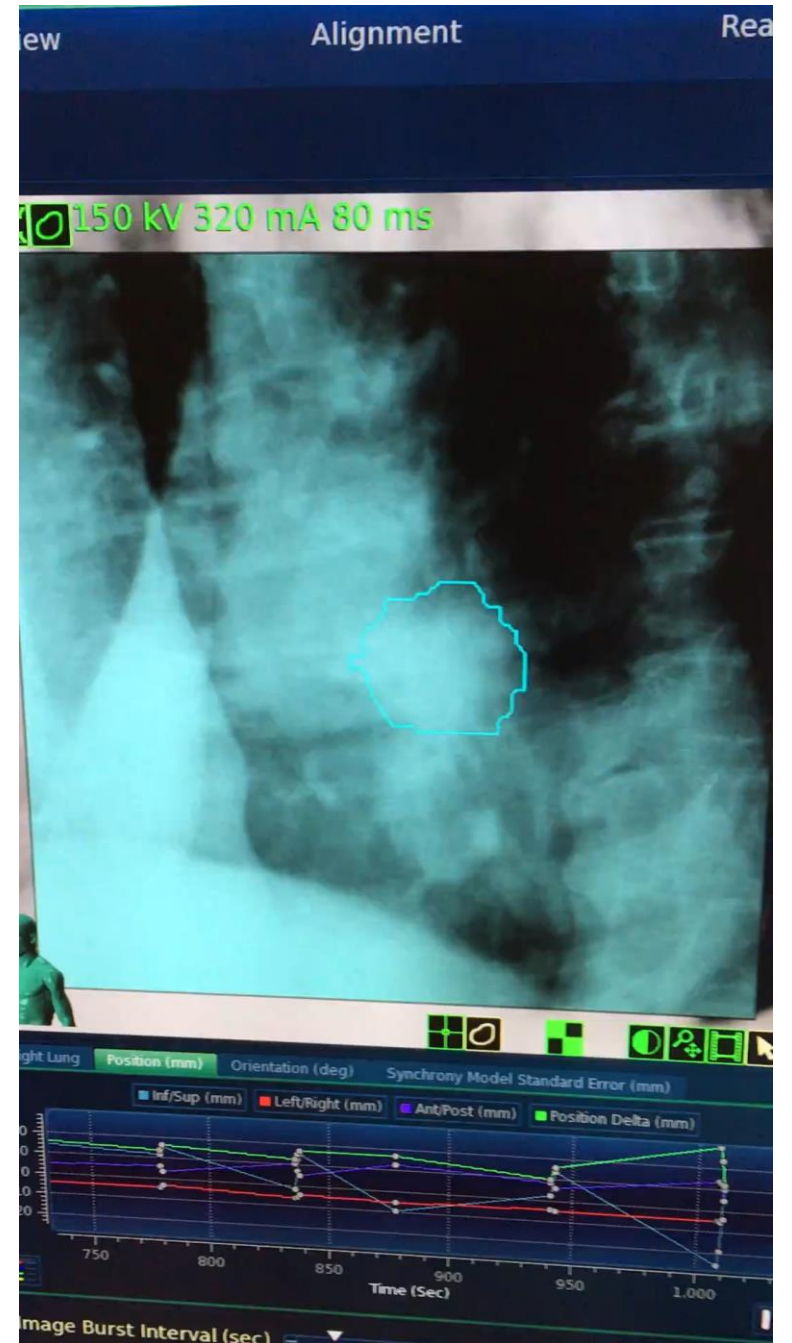
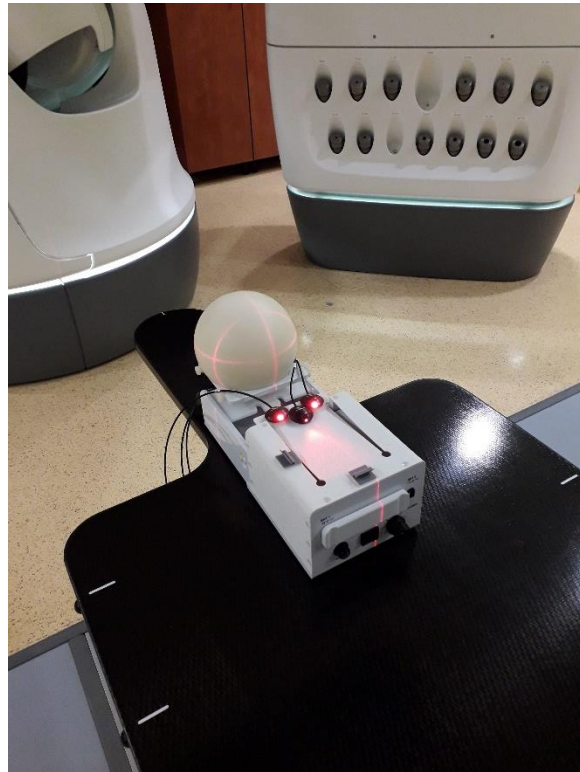


# AI based techniques we use

## Motions tracking (Synchrony)

Commissioning showed a **good correlation** with the predefined data

**Clinical experience** supports the use

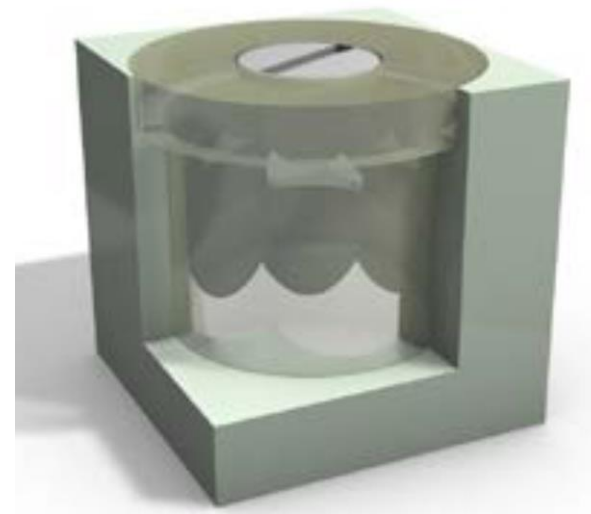
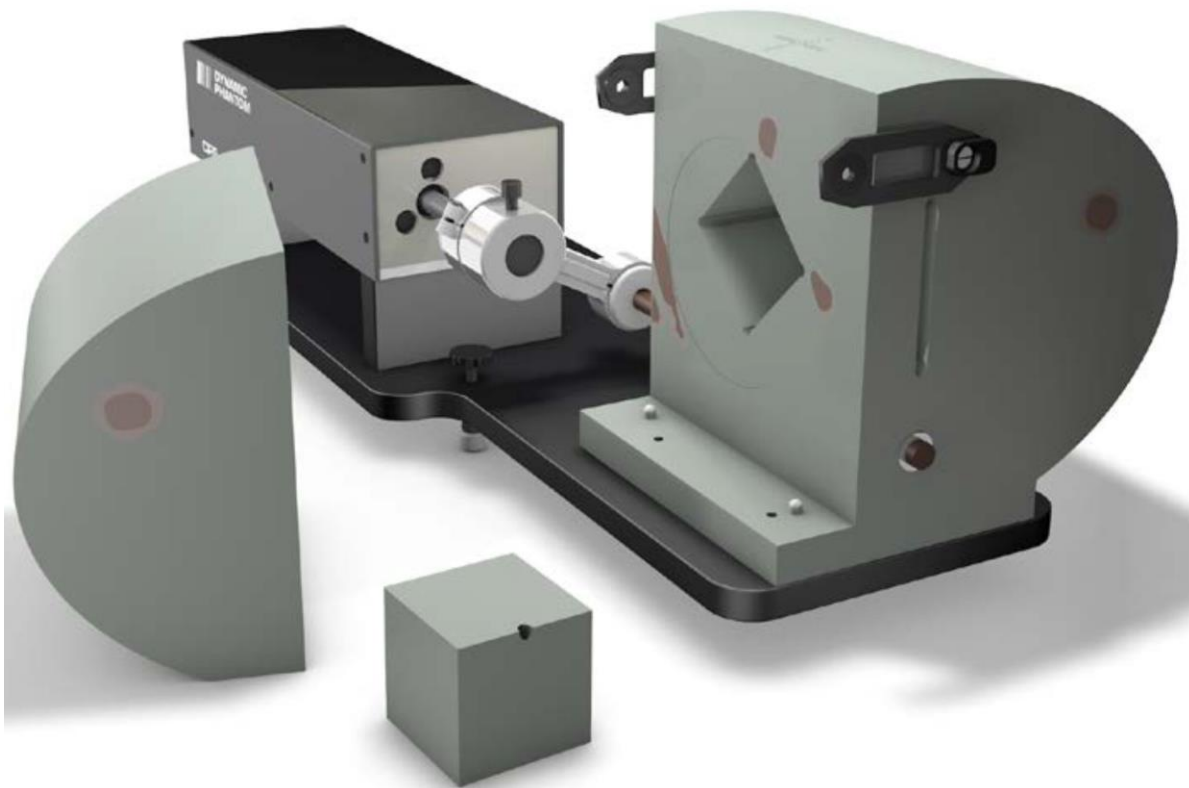


# AI based techniques we use

## Adaptive radiotherapy (ETHOS)

Just has started to implement

Commissioning will start with special (CIRS dynamic pelvic) phantom



# CONCLUSIONS

AI will engage **most of the technical procedures** of radiation oncology in some decades

The challenge is to provide **big and good quality** data in form of imaging, physical and outcome data

**Commissioning is a must** – tools have to be developed

**Clinical outcomes** must be evaluated

# CONCLUSIONS

If introduced and used appropriately AI will

Help to resolve the **human resources crisis** in radiation oncology

Will reduce the influence of **human error** on the process

**Quality** will increase

Local control / cure rate will be better

Side effects will decrease

Thank you for your attention!