Application of auto-planning in radiotherapy for breast cancer after breast-conserving surgery

Kunzhi Chen1,2, Jinlong Wei1,2, Chao Ge3, Wenming Xia1, Yinhua Shi1, Huidong Wang1* & Xin Jiang1*

To evaluate the quality of planning target volume (PTV) and organs at risk (OAR) generated by the manual Pinnacle planning (manP) and Auto-Planning (AP) modules and discuss the feasibility of AP in the application of radiotherapy for patients with breast cancer. Thirty patients who underwent breast-conserving therapy were randomly selected. The Philips Pinnacle 9.10 treatment planning system was used to design the manP and AP modules for PTV and OAR distribution on the same computed tomography. A physician compared the plans in terms of dosimetric parameters and monitor units (MUs) using blind qualitative scoring. Statistical differences were evaluated using paired two-sided Wilcoxon’s signed-rank test. On comparing the plans of AP and manP modules, the conformal index ($P < 0.01$) and $D_{50}$ ($P = 0.04$) of PTV in the AP group was lower than those in the manP group, while $D_1$ was higher ($P = 0.03$). In terms of dosimetry of OAR, ipsilateral lung $V_{20\text{ Gy}}$ ($P < 0.01$), $V_{10\text{ Gy}}$ ($P < 0.01$), $V_{5\text{ Gy}}$ ($P < 0.05$), and $D_{\text{mean}}$ ($P < 0.01$) of the AP group were better than those of the manP group. Heart $V_{40\text{ Gy}}$ and $D_{\text{mean}}$ of all patients with breast cancer in the AP group were lower than those in the manP group ($P < 0.01$). Moreover, 12 patients with left breast cancer had the same results ($P < 0.01$). The MU value of the intensity-modulated radiation therapy module designed using two different methods was higher in the AP group than in the manP group ($P = 0.32$), although there was no statistical significance. The AP module almost had an equal quality of PTV and dose distribution as the manP module, and its OAR was less irradiated.

Breast cancer is one of the malignant tumors with the highest incidence in women and causes great harm to women’s health. In China, the number of patients increases annually, and the age of onset gradually decreases. Breast cancer accounts for 11.6% of all cancers, ranking second according to the Global Cancer Epidemiology Statistics 2018 data. In China, breast cancer is the most important tumor that endangers the health of the female population, with an age-standardized rate of 21.6 cases per 100,000 women. The first diagnosis and mortality rates of breast cancer in China are 12.2% and 9.6%, respectively, annually, ranking the sixth in the cause of cancer-related death among women in China.

Presently, intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) has been widely used in radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery. IMRT can increase the dose in the target area, decrease the dose to organs at risk (OAR), and effectively improve the tumor control and patient survival rates. However, IMRT planning is time-consuming and labor-intensive. Moreover, since IMRT plan optimization can be affected by multiple factors, the quality of the finalized plans varies. Auto-Planning (AP), as a new optimization method of intensity adjustment plan, runs a series of scripts in the background to automatically generate different auxiliary structures given the prescription dose and automatically optimizes the objective function to achieve the expected results. The process and characteristics of both the AP and the manP are described in Fig. 1.

In this study, 30 patients who underwent breast-conserving surgery, followed by radiotherapy for early breast cancer, were selected to plan using both manual Pinnacle planning (manP) and AP module in the Philips Pinnacle 9.10 treatment planning system (TPS). By comparing the differences in dosimetric parameters between the two plans, the feasibility of the application of AP for postoperative IMRT planning will be discussed.

1Department of Radiation Oncology, The First Hospital, Jilin University, 71 Xinmin Street, Changchun 130021, China.
2These authors contributed equally: Kunzhi Chen and Jinlong Wei.
*email: wang_hd2010@163.com; jiangx@jlu.edu.cn
Materials and methods

Patients. Thirty patients were randomly selected from female patients with breast cancer treated in our hospital from January 2018 to December 2018 after breast-conserving surgery. All patients received preventive radiotherapy with 50 Gy in 25 fractions prescribed to the planning target volume (PTV). Patient age distribution ranged from 33 to 67 years, with an average age of 42.3 ± 3.1 years. There were 18 cases of right breast cancer and 12 cases of left breast cancer. According to TNM clinicopathological stage (6th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer), all patients were T1–2N0–1M0, including nine patients in T1N0M0 stage, 10 in T1N1M0 stage, 8 patients in T2N0M0 stage, and 3 in T2N1M0 stage.

Image data and position fixation. We immobilized the patient with a special breast bracket from CIVOICO. Then, the patient was simulated according to the following procedures: (1) The patient was in the supine position. (2) The head of the patient is supported by a B–F-type transparent plastic stiff pillow. (3) The affected side of the patient’s arm was placed on the stent, and the affected side’s hand holds the overhead fixation rod. (4) The patient was asked to grasp the fixed bar placed on the contralateral side of the head with the intact arm. The breast area that needs irradiation postoperatively should be fully exposed to the radiation field. We used a 24-row spiral Siemens computed tomography (CT) scan with a total scanning aperture of 800 mm in the superior–inferior direction and a slice thickness of 5 mm, and then images were uploaded to Philips Pinnacle 9.10 TPS for 3D image reconstruction.

Delineation of radiotherapy targets and OAR. According to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines 2018 and the report no. 9804 of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, the clinical target volume (CTV) was delineated in TPS, including intact breast tissue and tumor bed on the affected side. The specific target range of radiotherapy is as follows: (1) The inner boundary is 10 mm away from the lateral margin of the sternum. (2) The lateral boundary extends 5 mm outward to the breast gland tissue visible in the CT image. (3) The upper boundary extends 20 mm outward to the uppermost edge of the breast gland. (4) The lower boundary extends 20 mm outward to the lower edge of the breast visible in the CT image. (5) The anterior boundary extends 3 mm subcutaneously, and the posterior boundary extends to the inner edge of the chest wall and junction of the lung. Then, a three-dimensional 5-mm margin was added to the CTV to obtain the PTV. The posterior boundary expands outward to the edge of the lung tissue but does not contain the lung, and the skin retracts inward 4 mm from the subcutaneous area. Next, we delineated OARs, including the skin, ipsilateral and contralateral lung, heart, and ipsilateral breast.

Prescription dose of PTV and dose limitation for OAR. The dosages of PTV and OAR were constrained as follows:
Plan design. The field design of both AP and manP adopts the mixed intensification technology; that is, 70% of prescriptions are applied in the three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT) technology. The shooting field direction was two angles along the internal tangent of the PTV; then, the tangential field was arranged for penetrating irradiation. After using the conformal multiple-leaf collimator, PTV expanded outward by 5 mm in each direction and 20 mm in the direction of the skin surface. The other 30% of prescriptions use direct machine parameter optimization algorithms for reverse optimization. The beam direction is the optimum line plan to outreach (5° to 10°). The subfield area of the shooting field is at least 7 cm². The minimum number of hops in the subfield is 7 monitor units (MU), and the maximum number of optimization iterations is 100.

The PTV optimization objective of manP is 95% PTV > 50 Gy, and the optimization target of all OAR is the minimum value of the limited value. After the optimization result is obtained, it can be adjusted to achieve the lowest dose of the OAR. The PTV optimization target of AP is 50 Gy. OAR wait for the first result; then, it is decreased by between 1 and 3% depending on the actual dose. The weight for automatic optimization is selected as Medium.

Evaluation index of dosimetry. According to the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU) number 84 report, the dose distribution of PTV and the dose to OAR were evaluated according to the dose volume histogram (DVH), and the analysis indexes were as follows. (1) Analysis indexes of PTV include D1, D50, and D98, homogeneity index (HI), and conformal index (CI). HI = (D1 − D50) / D98, in which D1 is the dose received by 2% target volume and the rest by analogy. CI = (Vref / Vt) × (Vref / Vt), in which Vt is the volume of PTV, Vref is the volume of PTV wrapped around the isodose curve of prescription dose (50 Gy), and Vt,ref is the volume of all areas wrapped around the isodose curve of prescription dose (50 Gy). The closer the HI value is to 0 and the closer the CI value is to 1 indicate that the dose uniformity and conformability in the target area are better13,14. (2) The evaluation indexes of OAR include heart V40 Gy < 30%, V30 Gy < 40%, Dmean < 10 Gy. Ipsilateral lung: V20 Gy < 20%, V10 Gy < 25%, V5 Gy < 35%. Contralateral breast: D1 < 5 Gy.

Statistical analysis. The experimental data in this study were preliminarily sorted using office software and then statistically analyzed using PASW Statistics 22 and SPSS 22.0. The measurement data were expressed as mean ± standard deviation. If the comparison between the manP and AP groups conforms to the normal distribution, we will use the paired t-test, and if the comparison does not conform to the normal distribution, we will use the paired two-sided Wilcoxon’s signed-rank test. The test level was α = 0.05.

Table 1. Dosimetry comparison of the PTV of AP and manP (mean ± SD) (cGy).

| PTV            | n | AP          | manP        | t   | P-value  |
|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-----|----------|
| D18            | 30| 5,143.2 ± 24.88 | 5,153.7 ± 25.57 | 2.25| **0.04** |
| D50            | 30| 4,892.00 ± 25.55 | 4,889.63 ± 20.58 | 0.91| 0.37     |
| D98            | 30| 5,299.10 ± 37.34 | 5,286.01 ± 17.46 | 2.25| **0.03** |
| CI             | 30| 0.74 ± 0.06   | 0.76 ± 0.05   | 4.50| **0.00** |
| HI             | 30| 0.07 ± 0.1    | 0.07 ± 0.01   | −0.44| 0.66    |

Results

Dose distribution in the target area of radiotherapy. Dose distributions are shown in Table 1. The planned PTV in both groups reached 95% of the volume and was irradiated at 100% of the prescribed dose, meeting the needs of clinical treatment. D1 in the AP group was higher than that in the manP group and was statistically significant (t = 2.25, P < 0.05), while D50 and CI in the manP group were higher than those in the AP group and were statistically significant (t = 2.25, P < 0.05; t = 4.50, P < 0.01). However, the D98 in the AP group was higher than in the manP group, without statistical significance. The HI was almost equal between the two plans (t = −0.44, P = 0.66), without statistical significance.

Dose to OAR. Doses to OAR are shown in Table 2. In the two groups of OAR, V20 Gy, V10 Gy, V5 Gy, and Dmean in the ipsilateral lung were lower in the AP group than in the manP group (t = 14.75, P < 0.01; t = 18.60, P < 0.01; t = 3.61, P < 0.05; t = 6.56, P < 0.01), with statistical significance. Dmean in the contralateral lung was also lower in
the AP group than in the manP group (t = 5.88, P < 0.01). Among the 30 randomly selected patients, 12 had left breast cancer. Heart V40 Gy and Dmean of all patients with breast cancer in the AP group were lower than those in the manP group (t = 2.64, P < 0.05; t = 4.07, P < 0.01), with statistical significance. Patients with left breast cancer have the same results (t = 3.22, P < 0.01; t = − 7.88, P < 0.01). However, heart V30 Gy of all patients with breast cancer in the AP group was lower than that in the manP group (t = 1.6, P = 0.12), without statistical significance. Patients with left breast cancer also have the same results (t = 1.67, P = 0.12). Dmax of the contralateral breast in the AP group was lower than that in the manP group (t = 0.86, P = 0.4), without statistical significance.

In Fig. 2, the dose distribution in the manP and AP groups with the comparison between the two DVHs is reported for a representative patient.

Figure 2. Dose distribution for manP (a) and AP (b) and comparison between the two DVHs (c).

MU of the plan. The MU of the intensity-modulated plan designed by the two different methods was higher in the AP group than in the manP group (t = − 1.01, P = 0.32), but there was no statistical significance. Data are summarized in Table 3.

| OAR                        | n  | AP       | manP     | t     | P-value |
|----------------------------|----|----------|----------|-------|---------|
| Ipsilateral lung           |    |          |          |       |         |
| V20 (%)                    | 30 | 10.83 ± 3.70 | 11.67 ± 3.74 | 14.75 | <0.01   |
| V10 (%)                    | 30 | 15.9 ± 4.25  | 17.61 ± 4.33  | 18.6  | <0.01   |
| V5 (%)                     | 30 | 22.26 ± 4.78 | 24.73 ± 5.10  | 3.61  | <0.05   |
| Dmean (cGy)                | 30 | 603.56 ± 166.41 | 642.33 ± 168.08 | 16.56 | <0.01   |
| Contralateral lung         |    |          |          |       |         |
| Dmean (cGy)                | 30 | 18.73 ± 3.44  | 19.10 ± 3.57  | 5.88  | <0.01   |
| Heart of all patients      |    |          |          |       |         |
| V40 (%)                    | 30 | 0.53 ± 0.88   | 0.58 ± 0.96   | 2.64  | <0.05   |
| V30 (%)                    | 30 | 0.87 ± 1.35   | 1.12 ± 1.95   | 1.6   | 0.12    |
| Dmean (cGy)                | 30 | 149.02 ± 122.22 | 170.19 ± 134.87 | 4.07  | <0.01   |
| Heart of patients with left breast cancer | | | | | |
| V40 (%)                    | 12 | 1.34 ± 0.95   | 1.46 ± 1.01   | 3.22  | <0.01   |
| V30 (%)                    | 12 | 2.18 ± 1.30   | 2.81 ± 2.20   | 1.67  | 0.12    |
| Dmean (cGy)                | 12 | 282.50 ± 77.07 | 318.63 ± 80.87 | − 7.88 | <0.01   |
| Contralateral breast       |    |          |          |       |         |
| Dmax (cGy)                 | 30 | 294.45 ± 232.48 | 320.46 ± 246.24 | 0.86  | 0.4     |

Table 2. Dosimetry comparison of OAR of AP and manP (mean ± SD).
right modified radical mastectomy was also significantly better than that of the manP group. Marrazzo et al. noted that the better dose uniformity observed in the AP group than in the manP group (t = −1.01, P = 0.32), but there was no statistical significance. When selecting AP parameter weight, the parameter weight of each OAR had only four options included: Low, Medium, High, and Constrain. In this study, we only selected Medium. Therefore, if other weights are selected or different weights are combined, OAR will be exposed to less dose radiation. This is something that this study lacks, and it is also worthy of our deep consideration and further discussion.

Discussion
Breast cancer is a malignant tumor developing in the epithelial tissue of the breast, ranking first in the list of malignant tumors in women. Radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery can significantly reduce the local recurrence rate and improve the effective survival rate of patients. With the improvement in people's aesthetic consciousness, the requirements of breast appearance after radiotherapy for breast cancer have also improved. The application of IMRT combined with 3D-CRT can provide the postoperative breast tissue with adequate dose of preventive irradiation, while effectively limiting the OARs irradiation. Therefore, IMRT can help reduce the development of corresponding complications and reduce the risk of secondary cancer caused by radiation. Moreover, we can obtain better dose conformal degree and uniformity in the target area of radiotherapy, which can greatly reduce the local fibrosis of the breast tissue and gland atrophy, so as to meet patients' pursuit of beauty.

Presently, the design of an intensity-modulated plan is based on different target areas of radiotherapy and positions of OAR, manually adding some dosimetric auxiliary structures, then setting different dosimetric parameters, and finally using the planning system to reverse optimize the algorithm. Based on the results, we repeatedly modified parameters and set different dosimetric auxiliary structures. This is a process of repeated modifications to obtain a treatment plan that meets clinical requirements. The manP design process is tedious and time-consuming and will introduce human errors. Besides, manP is often not repetitive. For comparison, AP with the Pinnacle 9.10 TPS was designed with fewer affected factors and no additional dosimetric ancillary structure required. According to the dose distribution of PTV and OAR in real time in the optimization process, it will automatically generate a series of dosimetric auxiliary structures and perform repeated optimization calculations on the target function to achieve the expected goal.

According to the ICRU number 84 report, the evaluation tool for PTV is the DVH. Its indicators mainly include HI and CI. The closer the CI is to 1, the better the dose curve wraps PTV, while the closer the HI is to 0, the better the dose uniformity. It can be noted from the results that the CI and D1 in the manP group are better than that in the AP group. This is because manP not only makes a RING on PTV to improve the conformability of target dose but also deals with high-dose hot spots and low-dose cold spots. However, there was no relevant option to limit the dose conformal degree and uniformity of PTV in the parameters of AP design, which resulted in higher D1 and D98 than those in the manP group. Although there is a slight difference between the two plans, their dose distribution in PTV alone can meet the needs of clinical treatment.

Both $V_{20\,\text{Gy}}$ and $D_{\text{mean}}$ in the lung tissue are independent factors affecting the development of interstitial pneumonia, which significantly affects the long-term survival and quality of life of patients. Additionally, the $D_{\text{mean}}$ of the heart cannot be ignored in the long-term survival of patients with cardiac function. In terms of the dose received by the OAR in the two groups, the $V_{20\,\text{Gy}}$, $V_{10\,\text{Gy}}$, $V_{5\,\text{Gy}}$, and $D_{\text{mean}}$ of the ipsilateral lung and $V_{40\,\text{Gy}}$ and $D_{\text{mean}}$ of the heart in the AP group were all superior to those in the manP group. In our study, we also performed a separate analysis of the dose received by the heart in patients with left breast cancer and obtained the same results as in all patients. In the evaluation index of dosimetry, MU is also an important index we need observe. The MU of the intensity-modulated plan designed by the two different methods was higher in the AP group than in the manP group ($t = -1.01, P = 0.32$), but there was no statistical significance. When selecting AP parameter weight, the parameter weight of each OAR had only four options included: Low, Medium, High, and Constrain. In this study, we only selected Medium. Therefore, if other weights are selected or different weights are combined, OAR will be exposed to less dose radiation. This is something that this study lacks, and it is also worthy of our deep consideration and further discussion.

Currently, there are several ongoing studies on AP. Wei et al. reported that the OAR of the AP group after right modified radical mastectomy was also significantly better than that of the manP group. Marrazzo et al. pointed out that AP can significantly improve the dose coverage of PTV and reduce the dose to OAR when using the volume intensity-modulated technique designed by AP. Purdie et al. shown that when using an automated technique for two-field tangential breast IMRT treatment planning, the AP was dosimetrically equivalent to the clinical plans when scored for target coverage and lung and heart doses. Studies on other cancers have also shown that AP can effectively improve the dose coverage of PTV and reduce the dose of OAR. However, our study is only consistent with the findings of other scholars on OAR, but the situation of PTV has not been improved. This is largely dependent on the plan of our study, which is the mixed irradiation technology of 3D-CRT and IMRT, among which the prescription of 3D-CRT plan accounts for 70% of the total prescription. Therefore, the HI and CI adjustable space of PTV is only 30%. Finally, the AP group did not improve the HI and CI of PTV compared with the manP group.

The evaluation of the radiotherapy plan is as comprehensive as the treatment of breast cancer. It is necessary to consider not only the dose coverage and evenness index of PTV but also the dose of OAR around PTV. When focusing on PTV, the dose curve distribution is ideal, and the cure rate of the tumor will be greatly improved. However, concurrently, it will also increase the development of various complications and reduce the quality of

| Group | n  | MU           |
|-------|----|--------------|
| AP    | 30 | 104.37 ± 15.70 |
| manP  | 30 | 100.97 ± 10.11 |
| t     |    | t = −0.14    |
| P     |    | P = 0.32     |

Table 3. Dosimetry comparison of the MU of AP and manP (mean ± SD).
life of patients. However, when focusing on OAR, in the case of better organ protection, the therapeutic effect on the tumor may be slightly affected. Although the PTV coverage of the manP group was superior to that of the AP group, the differences between them were small. In contrast, the AP group’s plan outperformed that of the manP group in terms of OAR dose although both can meet the needs of clinical treatment.

This study also has some limitations. It does not fully consider the influence of OAR weight on dose distribution of PTV and OAR.

Conclusions
AP as a design approach based on script automation plans, when compared with manP, has the following advantages: (1) it does not need several auxiliary structures of organs dose and crisis. (2) It does not require large amounts of standardized database support and millions of financial support like artificial intelligence software. (3) The plan designed by AP can be fully used in radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery, which can reduce the work burden of the plan designer to a certain extent, and the quality of the treatment plan can also be guaranteed to a certain extent. On the contrary, for primary hospitals, it can solve heavy work burden caused by insufficient medical physicist, which is a relatively effective means and approach with low economic cost at present.

Received: 25 February 2020; Accepted: 2 June 2020
Published online: 02 July 2020

References
1. Chen, W. et al. Cancer statistics in China, 2015. CA Cancer J. Clin. 66, 115–132 (2016).
2. Bray, F. et al. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J. Clin. 68, 394–424 (2018).
3. Fan, L. et al. Breast cancer in China. Lancet Oncol. 15, e279–e289 (2014).
4. Lega, I. C. et al. Association between metformin therapy and mortality after breast cancer: a population-based study. Diabetes Care 36, 3018–3026 (2013).
5. Polgar, C. et al. Breast-conserving therapy with partial or whole breast irradiation: ten-year results of the Budapest randomized trial. Radiother. Oncol. 108, 197–202 (2013).
6. Coles, C. E. et al. Partial-breast radiotherapy after breast conservation surgery for patients with early breast cancer (UK IMPORT LOW trial): 5-year results from a multicentre, randomised, controlled, phase 3, non-inferiority trial. Lancet 390, 1048–1060 (2017).
7. Morrow, P. K. et al. Effect of age and race on quality of life in young breast cancer survivors. Clin. Breast Cancer. 14, e21–31 (2014).
8. Clarke, M. et al. Effects of radiotherapy and of differences in the extent of surgery for early breast cancer on local recurrence and 15-year survival: an overview of the randomised trials. Lancet 366, 2087–2106 (2005).
9. Oh, S. Jaffray DCho YB A novel method to quantify and compare anatomical shape: application in cervix cancer radiotherapy. Phys. Med. Biol. 59, 2687–2704 (2014).
10. Intensity-modulated radiotherapy: current status and issues of interest. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 51, 880–914 (2001).
11. Hazell, I. et al. Automatic planning of head and neck treatment plans. J. Appl. Clin. Med. Phys. 17, 272–282 (2016).
12. Von, M. M. et al. Soft tissue sarcoma, Version 2.2018, NCCN clinical practice guidelines in oncology. J. Natl. Compr. Cancer Netw 16, 536–563 (2018).
13. Fenkell, L. et al. Dosimetric comparison of IMRT vs. 3D conformal radiotherapy in the treatment of cancer of the cervix endophagus. Radiother. Oncol. 89, 287–291 (2008).
14. Swanson, T. et al. Six-year experience routinely using moderate deep inspiration breath-hold for the reduction of cardiac dose in left-sided breast irradiation for patients with early-stage or locally advanced breast cancer. Am. J. Clin. Oncol. 36, 24–30 (2013).
15. Bray, F., McCarron, P. & Parkin, D. M. The changing global patterns of female breast cancer incidence and mortality. Breast Cancer Res. 6, 229–239 (2004).
16. Speers, C. & Pierce, L. J. Postoperative radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery for early-stage breast cancer: a review. JAMA Oncol. 2, 1075–1082 (2016).
17. Fisher, B. et al. Reanalysis and results after 12 years of follow-up in a randomized clinical trial comparing total mastectomy with or without irradiation in the treatment of breast cancer. N. Engl. J. Med. 333, 1456–1461 (1995).
18. Darby, S. et al. Effect of radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery on 10-year recurrence and 15-year breast cancer death: meta-analysis of individual patient data for 10,801 women in 17 randomised trials. Lancet 378, 1707–1716 (2011).
19. Peto, R. et al. Comparisons between different polychemotherapy regimens for early breast cancer: meta-analyses of long-term outcome among 100,000 women in 123 randomised trials. Lancet 379, 432–444 (2012).
20. Purdie, T. G. et al. Automation and intensity modulated radiation therapy for individualized high-quality tangential breast treatment plans. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 90, 688–695 (2014).
21. Chang, D. T. et al. The impact of heterogeneity correction on dosimetric parameters that predict for radiation pneumonitis. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 65, 125–131 (2006).
22. Erven, K. et al. Changes in pulmonary function up to 10 years after locoregional breast irradiation. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 82, 701–707 (2012).
23. Erven, K. et al. Acute radiation effects on cardiac function detected by strain rate imaging in breast cancer patients. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 79, 1444–1451 (2011).
24. Wei, Y. L. Comparison of dosiology between auto-planning and manual planning of Pinnacle3 9.10 planning system in right-side modified radical mastectomy. J. Minim. Invasive Med. 12, 312–314 (2017).
25. Marrazzò, L. et al. Auto-planning for VMAT accelerated partial breast irradiation. Radiother. Oncol. 132, 85–92 (2019).
26. Purdie, T. G. et al. Automated planning of tangential breast intensity-modulated radiotherapy using heuristic optimization. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 81, 575–583 (2011).
27. Krayenbuehl, J. et al. Evaluation of an automated knowledge based treatment planning system for head and neck. Radiat. Oncol. 10, 226 (2015).
28. Nowa, K. et al. Evaluation of a commercial automatic treatment planning system for prostate cancers. Med. Dosim. 42, 203–209 (2017).
29. Buergy, D. et al. Fully automated treatment planning of spinal metastases: a comparison to manual planning of Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy for conventionally fractionated irradiation. Radiat. Oncol. 12, 33 (2017).
30. Gallio, E. et al. Evaluation of a commercial automatic treatment planning system for liver stereotactic body radiation therapy treatments. Phys. Med. 46, 153–159 (2018).
31. Li, X. A. et al. Variability of target and normal structure delineation for breast cancer radiotherapy: an RTOG Multi-Institutional and Multiobserver Study. Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 73, 944–951 (2009).
Acknowledgements
We would like to thank Editage (www.editage.cn) for English language editing. This work was supported in part by grants from the Norman Bethune Program of Jilin University (2015203, to Xin Jiang), the Jilin Provincial Science and Technology Foundations (201603040YY to Huidong Wang and 20190201200JC to Xin Jiang).

Author contributions
X.J. and H.W. conceived and designed the study. K.C.J.W. wrote the paper. C.G. and W.X. reviewed and edited the manuscript. H.W. and Y.S. are responsible for statistical analyses. All authors read and approved the manuscript.

Competing interests
The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information
Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to H.W. or X.J.

Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints.

Publisher's note
Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access
This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2020