Safety and efficacy of fiducial marker implantation for robotic stereotactic body radiation therapy with fiducial tracking

Nathaniel Scher¹*, Marc Bollet¹,², Gauthier Bouilhol¹, Remi Tannouri¹, Imane Khemiri¹, Aurelie Vouillaume¹, Noura Sellami¹, Rie Von Eyben³, Jean-Michel Vannetzel¹, Ilan Darmon¹, Luc Rotenberg¹, Hanah Lamallem¹,², Olivier Bauduceau¹,², Denis Foster¹ and Alain Toledano¹,²

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to assess the feasibility, efficacy and toxicity of fiducial marker implantation and tracking in CyberKnife® stereotactic radiation therapy (SBRT) applied to extracranial locations.

Materials and method: This is a retrospective, single-centre, observational study to collect the data of all patients treated by stereotactic radiation therapy with fiducial marker tracking at extracranial locations, conducted between June 2014 and November 2017. Information regarding the implantation procedure, the types of toxicity related to marker implantation and the number of markers implanted/tracked during treatment were collected. Complication rates were evaluated using the CTCAE v4 [Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events] scale. The technical success rate was based on the ability to optimally track the tumor throughout all treatment fractions.

Results: Out of 2505 patients treated by stereotactic radiation therapy, 25% received treatment with fiducial marker tracking. The total number of implantation procedures was 616 and 1543 fiducial markers were implanted. The implantation-related complication rate was 3%, with 16 Grade 1 events and 4 Grade 2 events. The number of treated patients and the number of implanted markers has gradually increased since the technique was first implemented. The median treatment time was 27 min (range 10–76). 1295 fiducials were effectively tracked throughout all treatment fractions, corresponding to a technical success rate of 84%. The difference between the number of fiducials implanted and those tracked during treatment decreased significantly as the site’s experience increased.

Conclusion: Fiducial marker implantation and tracking is feasible, well-tolerated, and technically effective technique in SBRT for extracranial tumors.

Keywords: Stereotactic body radiation therapy, Image guided radiation therapy, Fiducial marker
MRI systems integrated into treatment machine. Radiation-based systems include static as well as real time tracking, using either kV, MV, or hybrid methods. Registration of tumor targets and normal tissue avoidance structures to the treatment delivery machine is possible via motion control devices. There are three categories of motion control techniques: the gating, the damping and the tracking. The gating consist to follow the respiratory cycle using a surrogate in order to trigger the beam only in a specific time. The damping device such as abdominal compression or breath hold maneuvers can restrain the motion. Tracking device make possible to move the radiation beam to follow the moving target.

The CyberKnife® allows for frameless SBRT of extracranial locations with real-time target and motion tracking using kV imaging methods. Two target tracking methods are currently available with this device: the fiducial tracking that requires the use of fiducial markers which are radiopaque markers implanted around or within the tumor, and the Xsight® Lung Tracking System that is fiducial-free. Both tumor tracking methods can be combined with the Synchrony® Respiratory Tracking System, which synchronizes the beam delivery with the motion of the target due to respiration. Trackable fiducials, whose position can be measured rapidly, accurately, and objectively by a fiducial tracking system contribute for accurate patient positioning and targeting because they can provide the accuracy of fiducial-based IGRT while remaining as fast, easy, and objective as skin mark alignment. However, SBRT with fiducial tracking do not require and is not defined by one device. Each fiducial marker must remain in a fixed position in relation to the tumor and to the other markers. This ensures tracking of target translation movements (if at least one fiducial is tracked) and rotational movements (if at least three fiducials are tracked). Because the geometrical relationship between the fiducial marker and the target volume represents the greatest uncertainty in the CyberKnife® tracking system, optimal placement of the markers is essential [1]. Sub-optimal final positioning of one or more markers is often inevitable. To resolve this, additional markers are frequently implanted as back-ups. Despite growing interest for SBRT treatment of extracranial tumors, few institutions have accurately reported any practical experience with fiducial implantation and tracking in SBRT.

The purpose of this study was to assess the feasibility, efficacy and toxicity of fiducial marker implantation and tracking in CyberKnife® stereotactic radiation therapy applied to extracranial locations.

Methods

This is a retrospective, single-centre, observational study to collect the data of all patients treated by stereotactic radiation therapy with fiducial marker tracking at extracranial locations, conducted between June 2014 and November 2017 at the Hartmann Radiotherapy Institute. Patients requiring fiducial implantation were selected at the SBRT dedicated meetings. Information about the physician who performed the procedure, the implantation path, the success rates/rates of implantation-related complications, and the number of markers implanted/tracked during treatments were collected for all patients in whom fiducials were implanted. The success rate is defined by the number of fiducial markers implanted in relation to the number of markers actually tracked throughout the treatment. Thus, for each patient, the number of fiducials that the CyberKnife® were not able to track has been recorded. This study was approved by our Institutional Clinical Research Committee.

Implantation procedure

Eight different radiologists performed the implantation procedures. The implantation procedure and the type of fiducials implanted evolved over time, according to the experience acquired by the radiologist. The exclusion criteria were the same as for a biopsy [2].

All procedures were image-guided and performed on patients under short-duration local or general anaesthesia. Images were taken before, at regular intervals during, and following the procedure to check for fiducial positioning and the absence of immediate complications.

The fiducials were implanted close to the tumor, observing as closely as possible the fiducial implantation recommendations [3]. Each patient underwent a planning CT scan, required for treatment planning, using an Optima CT580 scanner (General Electric Company, Waukesha, WI) with a 4D option and 1.25 mm cross-section thickness. All treatments were performed using a CyberKnife® M6 FIM System (Accuray, Sunnyvale, CA) in combination with a robotic treatment table (RoboCouch), with fixed collimators, an IRIS collimator, an MLC collimator, and 6DSkull, Fiducial, Synchrony, Lung Optimized Treatment, Xsight Lung, Xsight Spine and Xsight Spine Prone tracking modes. The target is tracked throughout the treatment and delivery is automatically altered to compensate for any motion. The image guidance system calculates the required offsets based on the patient’s current position. During the delivery of the treatment the system automatically corrects the linac position for any calculated offsets within a specified tolerance. The offset tolerance for intra-fraction robotic corrections are 10 mm for X,Y and Z and 1.5° for pitch roll and Yaw; except for the prostate which the tolerance are 1.5°, 2° and 3° respectively.

Results

Out of 2505 patients were treated by stereotactic radiation therapy and 25% of them (616 patients) have received IG-SBRT for extracranial locations with fiducial marker
tracking. Thus, 1543 fiducial markers were implanted and 2757 sessions with fiducial tracking were performed. The median patient age at the time of treatment was 71 years (range [33–94]). The median time intervals between fiducial implantation, the simulation scan and the first treatment session were, respectively, 11 days (range [5–41]) and 15 days (range [2–36]). The median total prescribed dose was 36 Gy (mean 39 Gy, SD 10.2, range [15–60]), the median fractional dose was 10 Gy (mean 11, SD 1.6, range [6–20]) and the median number of fraction was 5 (mean 4.7, SD 1.9, range [3–6]). The median duration for one treatment was 29 mn (mean 27, SD 1.5, range [10–76]). The rate of implantation-related complications was measured at 3%, with 16 Grade 1 events, 4 Grade 2 and a single grade 3 event. The number of patients treated and the number of implanted markers increased since the technique was first implemented, with close to 350 patients treated with fiducial tracking over the year 2017. 468 procedures, i.e. 76% of all procedures, were performed by the same radiologist. 1295 fiducials were actually tracked throughout all treatment fractions, representing 84% of the implanted fiducials. Moreover, there is a significant decrease in the number of missing fiducials over time, \( p < 0.0001 \), indicating a learning curve by the radiologists. The main radiologist had significantly fewer missing fiducials than the other radiologists, \( p < 0.0001 \). On average this radiologist had 0.23 fewer fiducials missing and this difference persisted across all the measured dates (Fig. 1). The toxicities related to the implantation are not statistically different according to the radiologist, \( p = 0.15 \).

All results are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

### Lungs

#### Patients and methods

Out of 450 patients treated by lung SBRT for primary or secondary tumors, 89 received fiducial implantations. 15 patients had previously received lung SBRT without fiducial implantation. The fiducial implantation procedure consisted in implanting a single ‘Concerto’ or ‘Gold Anchor’-type seed through guided needle puncture. Fiducial implantation in the lungs was generally performed percutaneously via the trans-thoracic route, or through endovascular access if the patient had severe respiratory co-morbidities (single lung, major emphysema).

#### Results

One hundred two fiducials were implanted and 89 patients were treated. The procedure was performed by the same radiologist in 69 patients, i.e. in 78% of the procedures. The trans-thoracic implantation route was used in 90%, and the endo-vascular route was used in 10% of the implanted patients. All seeds were correctly positioned in the close vicinity of the tumor. In two of the 89 patients, a second seed had to be implanted within the same operative step due to immediate migration of the first seed. The median number of implanted and tracked fiducials per patient was, respectively, 1, mean 1.1, SD 0.32, range [1, 2].

The implantation procedures were complicated by eight Grade 1 events: seven cases of pneumothorax occurring immediately after the puncture, not requiring a drain, and one episode of minimal haemoptysis. The implantation procedures were complicated by two Grade 2 events: two cases of pneumothorax occurring immediately after the
puncture and requiring a drain. No cases of lung bleeding were reported. No events of Grade 3 or higher were reported. No patients required surgery or intensive care hospitalisation. No cases of secondary migration were observed on the tracking scan. The median dose was 60 Gy (range [36–60]) and the median number of fraction was 3 (range [3–6]). All implanted fiducials were used to reliably determine the lesion location, ensuring effective tracking and continuous radiation of the lesion throughout the treatment. The technical success rate was, therefore, 100%.

**Prostate**

**Patients and methods**

All patients undergoing SBRT treatment in the prostate underwent fiducial implantation. The procedure consisted in placing non-joined seeds in the years 2014 and 2015, and later using joined Fleximark-type seeds. The fiducials were implanted transperineally in the prostate in the transverse and sagittal planes under endorectal ultrasound guidance.

**Results**

One hundred fifty patients received SBRT treatment with fiducial implantation and tracking for prostatic tumor. The median dose was 36 Gy (range [36–36.25]) and the median number of fraction was 6 (range [5, 6]). In total, 544 seeds were implanted, i.e. a median number of 4 seeds per patient, mean 3.6, SD 0.84, range [2–5]. 88 procedures were performed by the same radiologist (58%). The tolerance rate was excellent. The implantations were complicated by seven Grade 1 events: 4 transient haematuria events and 3 perineal pain events. In addition, one fiducial had migrated out of the prostate and into the perineum immediately after implantation.

Four hundred seventy fiducials were tracked, i.e. 86% of the implanted fiducials. The total median number of fiducials tracked per patient was 3, mean 3.1, SD 0.57, range [2–3]. For all other patients (136 patients), at least three fiducials were tracked throughout the treatment. All fiducials selected at the planning stage were actually tracked during the treatment sessions. No fiducial migration was observed between the tracking scan and the
last treatment fraction. The technical success rate was measured at 91%.

Liver
Patients and methods
Fiducial implantation was performed under arterial CBCT guidance, percutaneously and/or endovascularly, depending on tumor location and patient co-morbidities. The endovascular route was preferred, particularly for centrally located tumors. The advantage of the endovascular route is that it provides a better view of the tumor volume shown by the contrast medium injection. The radiologist selected the level of scan sections and the puncture site. Under radiological guidance, the radiologist performed 2 needle punctures, dropping one to two joined seeds via the needle. The markers were placed perpendicularly according to a cube-shaped pattern centred around the tumor. The edges of the cube had to be in two different spatial planes.

Results
One hundred fifty-one patients received SBRT treatment with fiducial implantation and tracking for primary or secondary tumoral lesions of the liver. The median dose was 45 Gy (range [40–45]) and the median number of fraction was 3 (range [3–5]). Six hundred seventeen fiducials were implanted, with a median number of 4 implanted fiducials per patient (mean 4, SD 1.26, range [1–6]). One hundred ten procedures (73%) were performed by the same radiologist. The tolerance rate of the implantation procedure was excellent. Fiducial implantation was complicated by two Grade 2 events, i.e. a subcapsular haematoma in 2 patients. In addition, three cases of secondary migration inside the liver were noted: one occurring during the implantation procedure and two secondary migrations observed on the dosimetry scan. Finally, 461 fiducials were tracked, i.e. 74% of the implanted markers, with a median number of 3 tracked fiducials per patient (mean 3, SD 1, range [1–5]). The technical success rate was, therefore, 75%.

Other locations
Outcomes about fiducial markers implanted and tracked into lymph nodes, pancreas, bones and adrenal glands are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 3 Summary of the outcomes about fiducial markers implantation and tracking concerning the three main tumor localization: lung, prostate and liver

|        | Patients treated with SBRT (n) | Patients treated with fiducial tracking (n, %) | Fiducial markers implanted (n) | Fiducial markers tracked (n) | Technical success rate (%) | > grade 2 toxicities (%) |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lung   | 450                           | 89 (20%)                                      | 102                           | 102                        | 100%                      | 2%                       |
| Prostate | 160                          | 150 (94%)                                     | 544                           | 470                        | 91%                       | 0%                       |
| Liver  | 165                           | 151 (92%)                                     | 617                           | 461                        | 75%                       | 1%                       |
evaluates technical success based on the number of fiducials tracked throughout the treatment, since in order to ensure optimal target tracking, some tumor locations (prostate, liver, pancreas) require tracking of rotational movements in addition to translation movements throughout all the treatment fractions. To achieve this, at least three markers need to be tracked within each treatment fraction. To this day, no published study has reported the number of fiducials tracked during SBRT treatment in different locations. In addition, it is important to look at the proportion of fiducials that are actually tracked during treatment compared to the number of implanted fiducials and to take into account this difference in order to restrict the number of implantation invasive procedure and to conduct an assessment of professional practices. Several reasons may explain the fact that an implanted marker may not always be detected and tracked: 1) Marker migration; 2) Co-linear markers; 3) Deformation of an organ causing a change in the geometrical relationship among markers. All these scenarios can cause the CyberKnife® imaging system to no longer recognise some markers, and therefore to be unable to track them.

This is due to the fact that the CyberKnife® fiducial tracking method has a weakness:

- It considers the geometrical relationship among fiducials as rigid, and the geometrical relationship between the fiducials and the target as invariant. Thus, it does not take into consideration the possibility of anatomical deformations which can change the geometrical relationships among the fiducials themselves, or between the fiducials and the target.

This study also demonstrates the learning curve of the team translating in an improved efficacy of fiducial marker tracking as experience is gained. There has been a decrease in the difference between the number of implanted fiducials and the number actually tracked during treatment in the 2 years since this technique was implemented in our department. There is a significant decrease in the number of missing fiducials over time. This learning curve can be explained by several reasons. First, increasing the number of implantation procedure make it technically more efficient. Second, regular team meetings provide feedback and solutions to radiologists to improve placement. Continuous interactions between the members of the treatment team – radiographers, medical physicists, radiation oncologists, radiologists – help to identify the difficulties due to fiducial implantation and tracking, and to resolve them depending on treatment constraints. Third, the implantation equipment has improved and adapted to the demand over time (pre-loaded needle, set of linked markers). Thus, radiologists gather technical expertise and achieve to be more efficient according recommendations over time as the proportion of tracked vs. implanted fiducials becomes greater.

The toxicities related to the implantation are not statistically different according to the radiologist (p = 0.15). However, the rates of toxicity decrease overtime with 9, 7 and then 5 events over the three and half years. The event rates are too low to show a statistically significant difference. This study demonstrates the learning curve of the radiologist translating in an improved efficacy of fiducial marker tracking and probably in toxicities related to implantation as experience is gained. Thus, we suggest a minimum of 100 implantations procedure per year to ensure a high quality of fiducial tracking SBRT program. We recommend multi-disciplinary collaboration for implementation and application of fiducial tracking SBRT. Each patient’s proposed course of SBRT treatment should be discussed and reviewed by the multi-disciplinary stereotactic team. We think useful to develop processes for initial and ongoing training, to write departmental protocols, to structure follow up for assessment of the toxicity and efficacy of the procedure in order to evaluate and improve continuously clinical practices.

A medical-economic evaluation covering the management of implantation complications, the number of fiducials to be implanted, and the number of postponed treatment sessions should, logically, demonstrate that ensuring a lower level of toxicity and higher efficacy in fiducial implantation and tracking will also help reduce per-treatment costs as the number of patients under treatment gradually increases [7].

This study has certain limits. Firstly, it is a retrospective and single-centre study, which means the level of data evidence reported is low. However, the goal of the study was to report a preliminary experience based on a large patient population, while remaining strict on data collection quality and toxicity ratings, in order to provide reliable and comprehensive results. In addition, no long-term treatment results are reported in this cohort. This type of results, however, regarding SBRT treatment for different tumor locations is already well known, and the purpose of this work was to focus on the feasibility and toxicity of fiducial implantation and the efficacy of fiducial tracking during treatment. Lastly, successfully tracked fiducials do not guarantee good localization. Indeed, the fiducials were implanted close to the tumor, and he distance between the fiducials and the target was not recorded. It would be interesting to collect data related to this parameter in order to report on implantation quality and target tracking reliability.

**Lung**

The rate grade 2 or more implantation related complications was very low (2%) in this report. Trans-thoracic fiducial implantation is responsible for a pneumothorax rate that varies across the different studies from 10 to 23% [8–11]. In a population that is generally frail,
ageing, often with strong vascular, and particularly pulmonary, histories (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), the risk of pneumothorax should be taken into consideration. Using the endo-vascular route as an alternative can reduce complications. No complications during marker implantation via the endo-vascular route were collected in our study, and the literature reported complications such as pulmonary infarction (5%), pleuritic chest pain (33%), and groin haematoma (3%) (23).

**Prostate**

Trans-perineal fiducial implantation was reliable and very well tolerated in our study, with complication rates close to those reported in the literature [12]. One advantage of the trans-perineal route is that it avoids perforation of the rectum, reducing the potential for infections [13, 14]. In this study, no events related to urinary infection were reported.

For intra-prostatic markers, the initial use of non-joined seeds was responsible for a decrease in the number of tracked fiducials during treatment, as the fiducials were placed too closely (less than 2 cm) and only one of the two implanted fiducials could actually be detected and tracked. Later on, by implanting joined seeds, we were able to correct this problem and increase the number of fiducials tracked during treatment sessions.

**Liver**

The cube-shaped implantation pattern is a technique that uses limited cutaneous and adrenal entry ports: only one puncture was required for inserting a set of 2 markers. Thus, the very low Grade 2 complication rate (1%), lower than those reported elsewhere [15], can be partly explained by the use of joined markers; this reduced the number of needles, and therefore the number of entries and puncture-related complications. This technique, therefore, is easier to perform, less subject to complications and marker migration, and is shorter compared to other procedures [2]. In addition, the cube-shaped marker implantation pattern centred around the tumor seems to be best suited for marker recognition and tracking on kV imagery devices. In this study, marker implantation in the liver was feasible and produced a low level of toxicity. However, this was the location where the technical success rate was the lowest. On average, 25% of the implanted fiducials were not tracked since the liver is a mobile, physiologically deformable organ, which changes the geometrical relationship among the fiducials. Therefore, ideally, four fiducials should be placed around the target, in the three planes, to ensure that three fiducials are tracked during the treatment. To our knowledge, no study has reported the number of fiducials actually tracked during stereotactic radiation therapy treatment of the liver. This observation is important, since it objectively justifies the requirement of placing at least 4 markers in order to effectively track a liver target.

**Conclusion**

Optimal fiducial marker implantation is essential for a successful SBRT treatment when fiducial tracking is required. Fiducial marker implantation and tracking is a feasible, well-tolerated and effective technique in SBRT treatment for extracranial tumors. Two and a half years after installing the CyberKnife®, over 3000 patients have received SBRT treatment, 616 using fiducial marker implantation and tracking. This new line of activity has allowed us to develop cooperation ties between the radiology and radiotherapy teams, and to discuss fiducial implantation upstream in order to select the best treatment strategies.

**Abbreviations**

CBCT: Cone Beam Computed Tomography; CTCAE: Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; SBRT: Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy

**Ethics approval and consent to participate**

This analysis was done according to the standards of the Helsinki Declaration. We obtained permission from the local ethics committee. Informed consent forms were collected from all patients before the beginning of the treatment.

**Consent for publication**

Not applicable.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Author details**

1. Hartmann Radiotherapy Institute, Levallois-Perret, 4 rue Kleber, Levallois-Perret, France. 2. Rafael Institute, Center for Predictive Medicine, 3 boulevard Bineau, Levallois-Perret, France. 3. Department of Statistical Analysis, Radiation Oncology, Stanford University School of Medicine, 875 Blake Wilbur Drive, California, USA.

**Received:** 20 May 2019 **Accepted:** 2 September 2019 **Published online:** 13 September 2019

**References**

1. Seppenwoolde Y, Wunderink W, Wunderink-van Veen SR, Storchi P, Mendez Romero A, Heijmen BJM. Treatment precision of image-guided liver SBRT using implanted fiducial markers depends on marker-tumour distance. Phys Med Biol. 2011;56(17):5445–58.
2. Jarayna H, Chalayer C, Tresch E, Bonodeau F, Lacomerie T, Mirabel X, et al. Novel technique for hepatic fiducial marker placement for stereotactic body radiation therapy. Int J Radiat Oncol sept. 2014;90(1):119–25.

3. Kotlyash N, Dieterich S, Louie JD, Chang DT, Hofmann LV, Sze DY. Percutaneous implantation of fiducial markers for imaging-guided radiation therapy. Am J Roentgenol. 2009;192(4):1090–6.

4. Kotlyash N, Heit JJ, Louie JD, Kuo WT, Loo BW, Koong A, et al. Safety and efficacy of percutaneous fiducial marker implantation for image-guided radiation therapy. J Vasc Interv Radiol JVIR févr. 2009;20(2):235–9.

5. Park SH, Won HJ, Kim SY, Shin YM, Kim PN, Yoon SM, et al. Efficacy and safety of ultrasound-guided implantation of fiducial markers in the liver for stereotactic body radiation therapy. PLOS ONE. 2017;12(6):e0179676.

6. Kim JH, Hong SS, Kim JH, Park HJ, Chang Y-W, Chang AR, et al. Safety and efficacy of ultrasound-guided fiducial marker implantation for CyberKnife radiation therapy. Korean J Radiol. 2012;13(3):307–13.

7. Ng M, Brown E, Williams A, Chao M, Lawrentschuk N, Chee R. Fiducial markers and spacers in prostate radiotherapy: current applications. BJU Int mars. 2014;113(Suppl 2):13–20.

8. Whyte RI, Crowneover R, Murphy MJ, Martin DP, Rice TW, DeCamp MM, et al. Stereotactic radiosurgery for lung tumors: preliminary report of a phase I trial. Ann Thorac Surg. 2003;75(4):1097–101.

9. Bibault JE, Prevost B, Danin E, Mirabel X, Lacomerie T, Dubus F, et al. Radiothérapie stéréotaxique de carcinomes bronchiques primitifs : suivi non invasif de la cible en temps réel. Cancer/Radiothérapie déc. 2010;14(8):690–7.

10. Giragthy PR, Kee ST, McFarlane G, Razavi MK, Sze DY, Dake MD. CT-guided transbronchoscopic needle aspiration biopsy of pulmonary nodules: needle size and pneumothorax rate. Radiology. 2003;229(2):475–81.

11. Reihner CA, Collins BT, Gagnon GJ, Malik S, Jamis-Dow C, Anderson ED. The placement of gold fiducials for CyberKnife stereotactic radiosurgery using a modified Transbronchial needle aspiration technique. J Bronchol. 2005;12(4):193–5.

12. Saad A, Goldstein J, Lawrence YR, Weiss I, Saad R, Spieler B, et al. Transperineal implantation of gold fiducial markers (gold seeds) for prostate image-guided radiation therapy: a feasible technique associated with a low risk of complications. J Med Radiat Sci déc. 2015;62(4):261–6.

13. Içdem Ş, Akpinar H, Alço G, Ağçaşakar F, Türkün S, Okkan S. Implantation of fiducial markers for image guidance in prostate radiotherapy: patient-reported toxicity. Br J Radiol. 2009;82(983):941–5.

14. Shirato H, Harada T, Harabayashi T, Hida K, Endo H, Kitamura K, et al. Feasibility of insertion/implantation of 2.0-mm-diameter gold-internal fiducial markers for precise setup and real-time tumor tracking in radiotherapy. Int J Radiat Oncol. 2003;56(1):240–7.

15. Ohtsuka K, Shimosaka M, Musat T, Nishimura J, Iwata H, Ogino H, et al. Percutaneous fiducial marker placement prior to stereotactic body radiotherapy for malignant liver tumors: an initial experience. J Radiat Res (Tokyo). 2016;57(2):174–7.

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