

## **Client expectations and reality in human and veterinary radiation oncology**

The diagnosis of the cancer causes significant distress in human patients, pets' owners and their family members. Further anxiety is due to many unknowns, mainly related to what to expect from the treatment, its efficacy and side effects. In addition, nervousness related to time, travels and costs. Fears and misconceptions regarding RT have been identified by patients as factor why some would not even consider this option. Sadly, people are unaware of advances in the RT field. The modern technology assists radiation oncologist, to be much more accurate, leading to the treatments being safer and more effective. We, as veterinarians can learn a lot from human cancer patients' expectations and experience. This presentation will provide an overview over what we know to date regarding expectations and experience in human and veterinary radiation oncology. Additionally valuable points from human cancer patients and the current techniques of communication, implemented in human medicine will be presented, so that they be potentially introduced into veterinary medicine.