

Radiotherapy Board

STATEMENT ON LOW-DOSE RADIOTHERAPY TO THE LUNG FOR COVID-19 PNEUMONIA

The delivery of low-dose radiotherapy (LDRT) to the lung is currently being considered as an experimental technique for the treatment of COVID-19 pneumonia and a number of early phase clinical trials are under way internationally. The results from clinical trials are essential in providing the rigorous evidence base needed to underpin any change of practice in, or new application of, radiotherapy.

LDRT for the treatment of COVID-19 pneumonia should only be delivered within the context of a formal, ethically-approved clinical trial. When considering participation in any such clinical trial, the [Radiotherapy Board](#)¹ encourages centres to give careful thought to the additional clinical and practical challenges this may present. These include the maintenance of COVID-19-free spaces for the protection of patients being treated for their cancer, local radiotherapy capacity during the recovery phase with respect to both equipment and workforce, and the expert opinions of the multi-professional team required to deliver the treatment.

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¹ The Radiotherapy Board was established in 2013 by The Royal College of Radiologists, the Society and College of Radiographers and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine to provide guidance, oversight and support for the continuing development of high-quality radiotherapy services for cancer patients in the UK. It has representation from across the four UK nations and from other organisations closely involved in radiotherapy services.