

MEDIRAD

PRESS RELEASE

MEDIRAD – Implications of Medical Low Dose Radiation Exposure

A European-funded project aims to enhance the protection of patients and health professionals from exposure to low dose medical radiation

Vienna, October 2017. A new EC-funded project will bring together medical and radiation scientists, physicists and clinicians to enhance the radiation protection of patients and medical professionals. The four-year MEDIRAD project, which kicked off in June 2017, is led by the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research – EIBIR (AT) and comprises a consortium of 33 partners from 14 European countries. “The strength of MEDIRAD is the unique multidisciplinary approach involving research groups focusing on radiology, nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, dosimetry, epidemiology, biology, bioinformatics, modelling, radiation protection and public health”, says Prof. Elisabeth Cardis from ISGlobal (ES) and Scientific Coordinator of the project.

The use of ionising radiation in medicine has been steadily increasing, and this trend is set to continue, with obvious health benefits for the population thanks to improved diagnostic and therapy technologies. However, this increase in radiation exposure levels also raises a number of safety concerns: the potential health effects among patients and medical workers need to be evaluated, dose evaluation tools for clinical practice need to be developed, and practices need to be optimised in order to reduce exposure doses and ensure adequate radiation protection.

MEDIRAD’s overall goal is to address these needs by enhancing the scientific bases and practice of radiation protection in medicine. To achieve this, MEDIRAD has three major operational objectives: to improve organ dose estimation and registration; to evaluate and understand the mechanisms of the effects of medical exposures, focusing on two outcomes of public health relevance: cardiovascular effects of radiotherapy in breast cancer treatment, and cancer risks following CT scanning in children and adolescents; and to develop science-based consensus policy recommendations for the effective protection of patients, workers and the general public.

“This project will clearly contribute to more accurate risk estimations for radiation-induced cardiovascular events and thus support primary and secondary prevention”, says Prof. Guy Frija from Université Paris Descartes (FR) and Clinical Coordinator of the project.

MEDIRAD is supported by the five European medical associations – the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP), European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS), European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the European Society For Radiotherapy And Oncology (ESTRO) – and builds upon their partnership with the Multidisciplinary European Low Dose Initiative (MELODI) and the European Radiation Dosimetry Group (EURADOS), and on the Strategic Research Agendas of MELODI and the European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED).

MEDIRAD has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018 under grant agreement No 755523.

More information about the project can be found at <http://www.medirad-project.eu/>.

Press contact

Ulrike Mayerhofer-Sebera
European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research (EIBIR)
Neutorgasse 9, 1010 Vienna, Austria
+43-1-533-4064-43
umayerhofer-sebera@eibir.org

Disclaimer

This publication reflects only the author's views. The European Union is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.