2nd PANHELLENIC CONGRESS OF MEDICAL PHYSICS
4-6 OCTOBER 2024| EUGENIDES FOUNDATION

Nanoparticles for Image-Guided Therapy

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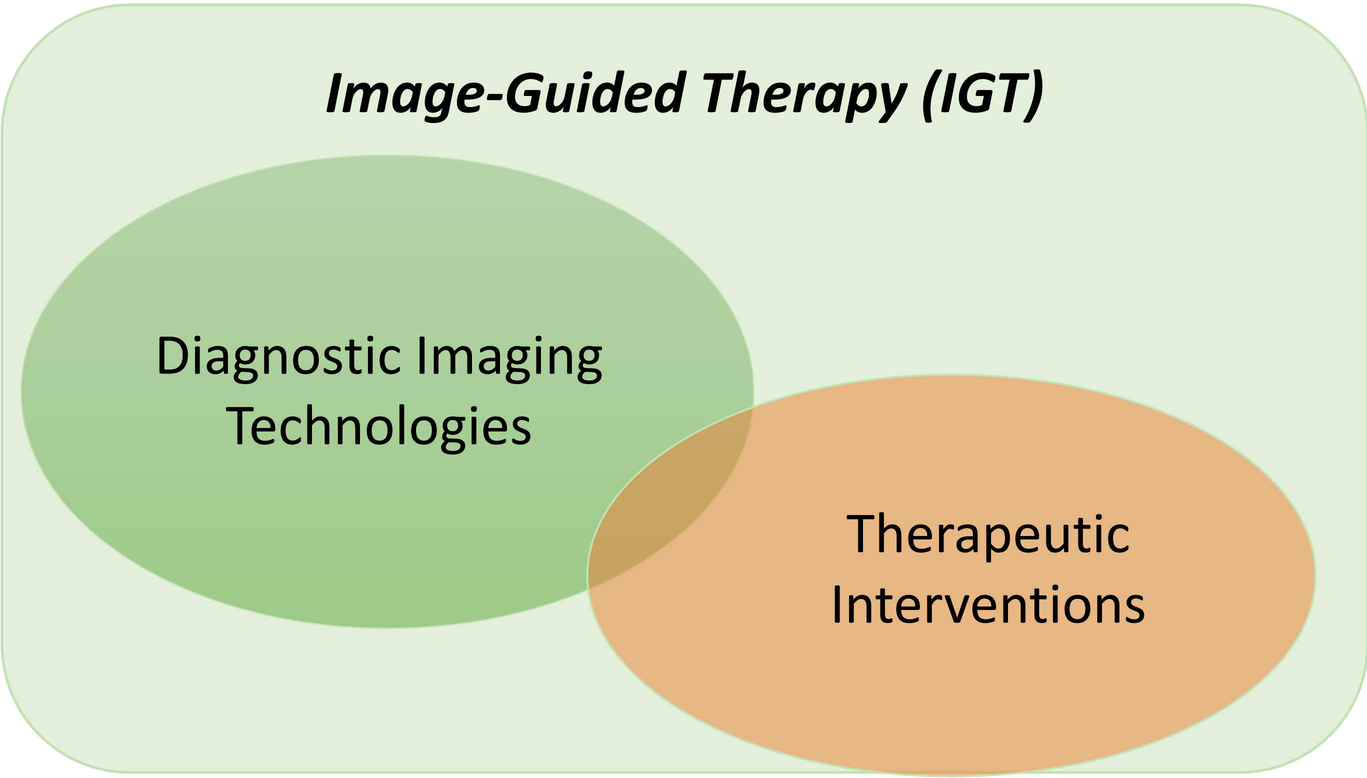
1. Background-Aim

Image-Guided Therapy (IGT) is a sophisticated medical technique that merges diagnostic imaging technologies with therapeutic interventions. This integration enables real-time monitoring, allowing healthcare providers to track the progress of treatments while precisely targeting diseased areas.

Challenging part : Traditional chemotherapy often results in indiscriminate side effects because the drugs cannot distinguish between healthy and cancerous cells. Additionally, tumors may develop drug resistance, diminishing the effectiveness of these treatments over time.



1. Background-Aim

Role of Nanoparticles (NPs): Recent advancements in nanoparticle (NP) design offer solutions to these issues by enabling more targeted delivery of therapeutic agents. NPs can be engineered to carry drugs directly to the site of the disease, reducing damage to healthy tissue and improving treatment outcomes.

Nanoparticles can guide, dictate, and monitor drug delivery with high precision. This technology has the potential to revolutionize treatment for cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neurological disorders, and musculoskeletal conditions, offering tailored treatments for individuals or specific populations.

2. Materials & Methods

- Nanoparticles enhance the capabilities of various imaging modalities used in IGT by improving visualization, targeting, and monitoring during treatment. These techniques include:

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

NPs designed for MRI can improve image contrast, allowing for more precise localization of tumors and other diseased tissues.

Computed Tomography (CT)

Functionalized NPs can enhance CT images, offering detailed anatomical structures that enable accurate targeting.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

Radiolabeled NPs are used to track drug distribution and monitor precise drug dosing.

Fluorescence Imaging

NPs enhance tissue contrast and provide real-time feedback, making it easier to identify the target site.

Photoacoustic Imaging

This technique, combined with NPs, provides greater tissue penetration and better resolution of deeper structures.

- The effectiveness of NPs in these imaging modalities depends heavily on their surface functionalization. Modifying the NP surface with biocompatible materials increases their stability and targeting capabilities.
- This functionalization helps NPs to avoid detection and removal by the body's immune system, allowing them to reach their intended target effectively.

Types of Nanoparticles

- ***MRI:*** Superparamagnetic Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (SPIONs) , Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs), Gadolinium-based Nanoparticles (GdNPs), Silica-based Nanoparticles.
- ***CT:*** Gold nanoparticles, bismuth nanoparticles, and iodine-based nanoparticles
- ***PET:*** Radioisotope-Labeled Nanoparticles such as fluorine-18 (^{18}F), copper-64 (^{64}Cu), zirconium-89 (^{89}Zr), and gallium-68 (^{68}Ga),Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs), Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (IONPs),Silica Nanoparticles, Quantum Dots (QDs)
- ***Fluroscopic Imaging:*** Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs), Bismuth Nanoparticles, Iodine-based Nanoparticles, Tantalum Oxide Nanoparticles
- ***Photoacoustic Imaging:*** Gold Nanorods (GNRs), Carbon-based Nanoparticles, Silica-coated Nanoparticles, Polymer-based Nanoparticles

3. Results

The combination of NPs and IGT has significantly improved the accuracy, efficacy, and safety of treatments across a range of imaging modalities:

MRI and CT

NPs have demonstrated improved contrast characteristics, allowing for clearer and more detailed images. This facilitates the precise targeting and monitoring of tumors in real time.

PET

Radiolabeled NPs provide real-time tracking of therapeutic agents, allowing for the precise monitoring of drug dosages as they are delivered to the tumor. This minimizes the risk of under- or overdosing, ensuring the treatment is as effective as possible.

Fluorescence and Photoacoustic Imaging

NPs enable deeper tissue penetration,which is particularly useful for identifying tumors or abnormalities located in hard-to-reach areas. These techniques also offer improved resolution, providing high-quality images that assist in more accurate treatment planning.

The use of NPs in IGT has shown a marked reduction in systemic toxicity. Unlike conventional chemotherapy, where drugs circulate throughout the body and affect both healthy and cancerous cells, NP-based IGT targets only the diseased tissues. This reduces the risk of harmful side effects and minimizes off-target effects.

4. Conclusions

- The integration of NPs with IGT represents a significant advance in both diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities. NPs offer multi-functionalities that allow them to serve dual roles as both imaging agents and drug carriers. This enables **simultaneous imaging** and **treatment**, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the intervention.

- The precision provided by NP-based IGT reduces the likelihood of damage to healthy tissues and greatly lowers the risk of side effects. This level of precision has also allowed doctors to extend treatments to high-risk anatomical regions of the body that were previously inaccessible due to the potential for significant harm using traditional methods.

- ***Future Perspective:*** The future of NP-based IGT holds tremendous potential for treating not only cancer but also other complex conditions such as cardiovascular diseases and neurological disorders. The ability to customize treatments at both the individual and population levels ensures that medical interventions can be tailored to meet specific needs, improving patient outcomes on a larger scale.

5. References

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