Recent developments in brachytherapy
Ferran Guedea,

Brachytherapy has a long and illustrious history in the treatment of cancer dating back to the early 20th century. Although its popularity has fluctuated in response to the emergence of newer treatment modalities, brachytherapy has persisted over time. Although it is not the predominant radiotherapy modality, this treatment modality continues to play an important role in cancer therapy, even now, more than a 100 years after it was first introduced. Today, it is most commonly used in prostate, gynecological, and breast cancer, although technological developments in recent years have opened up several new treatment possibilities.

Brachytherapy tends to “fly under the radar” when compared to external beam radiotherapy (EBRT). However, numerous important – though perhaps under-appreciated – advances in brachytherapy have been made in the last two decades. This therapeutic modality has several important advantages, particularly the fact that it allows for high-doses of radiation to be delivered to the tumor with a high degree of precision, thus minimizing damage to healthy tissue. For this reason, it is important that efforts be made to remind all cancer care professionals of the continuous improvements in this technique and the value of brachytherapy in the cancer treatment toolkit.

In the last few years, our journal, Reports of Practical Oncology and Radiotherapy (RPOR), has been publishing cutting-edge research into new developments in the field of brachytherapy, particularly in improved dosimetric techniques, imaging, and treatments. In this editorial, we take a closer look at a few of these advances through some of the more relevant papers published in our journal over the past 3 years. We believe that these important papers help to reveal the value and progress that is being made in the field, and we are proud to be able to help disseminate this important research to a wide audience.