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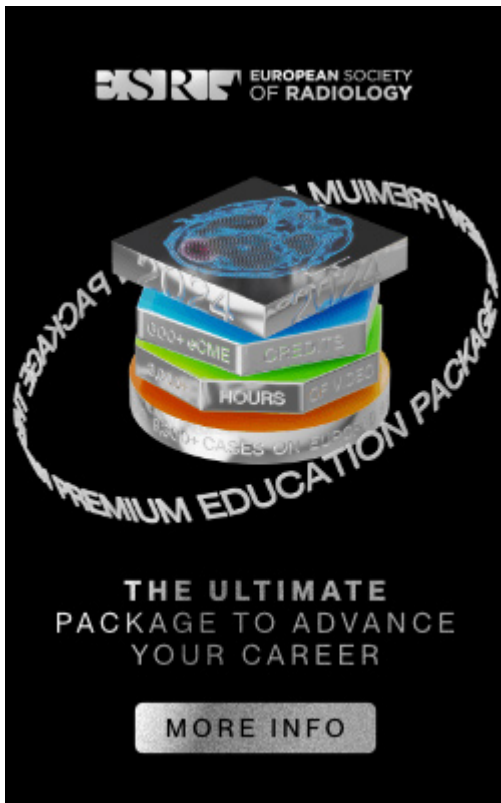
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ECR 2024 / C-20578

Focus group as a tool in the development of procedures in radiation therapy

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Purpose

Morgan(1) defines a focus group as “a research technique that collects data through group interaction on a topic determined by the researcher.” This definition provides the 3 major components of the focus group research: (1) A method devoted to data collection, (2) interaction as a source of data, and (3) the active role of the researcher in creating group discussion for data collection (1,2).This technique emerged as a qualitative data collection approach and a bridging strategy for scientific research and local knowledge(3).In this setting, the...

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Methods and materials

Participation was voluntary and open to all members of the radiotherapy department. Invitations were sent to therapeutic radiographers/radiation therapists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and administrative personnel to form a single focus group. Since participants were already familiar with each other, introductions were unnecessary. The researcher only needed to verify if there were enough participants and secure a reasonably sized venue away from distractions. To promote a welcoming atmosphere and encourage active listening, the researcher began by expressing gratitude for everyone's participation and informed about the...

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Results

The focus group discussion was primarily used to explore people’s understanding and interpretation of the topic, taking place in a tranquil environment where participants demonstrated interest and satisfaction in participating. This allowed for a comprehensive exploration of their perspectives and insights on the subject matter.As a result of the focus group, a representative synthesis framework was developed, encompassing the domains covered, namely brainstorming, open-ended questions, and the presentation of the three constituent parts of the form with their respective suggestions formulated by each professional group.At...

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Conclusion

Focus groups, when conducted properly, provide an open and collaborative forum for meaningful discussions. They can offer valuable insights that, when implemented, lead to improvements in radiation therapy procedures and a more positive experience for the multidisciplinary team. Therefore, focus groups represent a useful tool in the ongoing development of radiotherapy procedures. It is concluded that the application of these tools is necessary to promote the training and teaching of practical aspects of radiobiology, as evidenced by the focus group. Regarding the training of therapeutic radiographers/radiation...

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Personal information and conflict of interest

M. C. Ramos: Nothing to disclose S. Bras: Nothing to disclose S. Oliveira: Nothing to disclose M. Eiras: Nothing to disclose

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Fig 1: Main steps of the focus group applied.

