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Geant4 Simulation Study on Nanoparticle Enhanced Microbeam Radiation Therapy

Elette Engels

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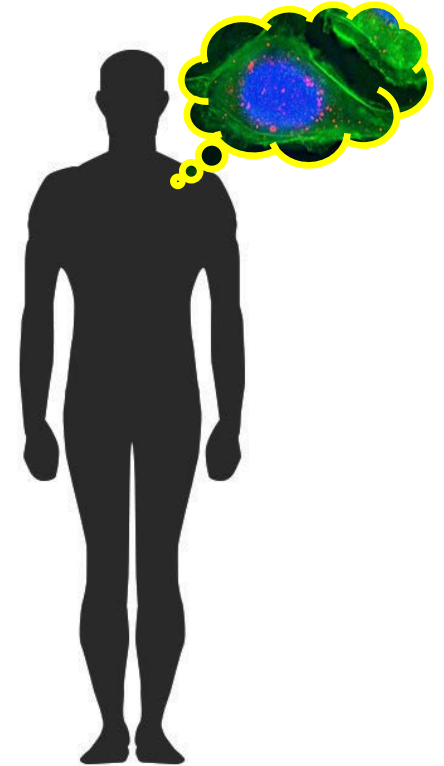
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Nanoparticles for Radiotherapy?

- Nanoparticles are smaller than the size of cell structures:

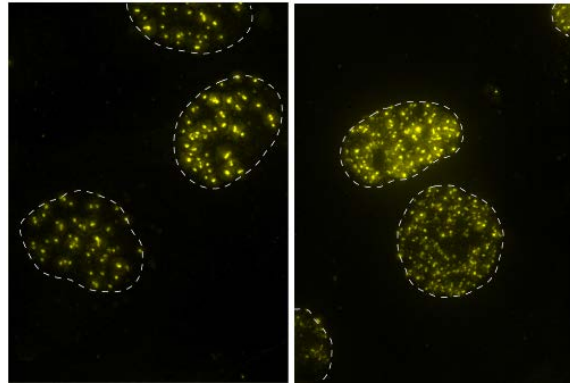


- Nanomedicine: uses precisely engineered nano-materials developed for novel therapeutic and diagnostic modalities.



Nanoparticles for Radiotherapy?

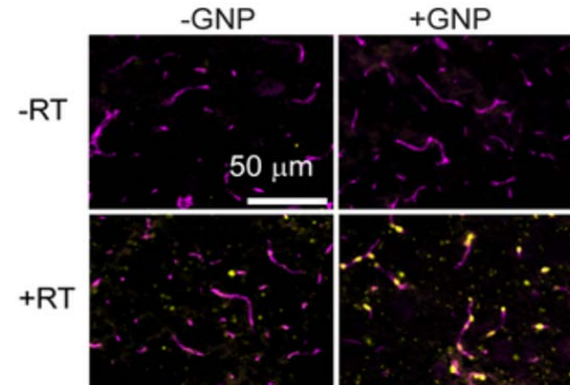
- Nanoparticles are shown to produce additional DNA damage in the same radiation field, particularly for kV RT:



in vitro study:

DSBs in glioblastoma cells without (right) and with GNPs (left) following a 4 Gy 150 kVp X-ray treatment.

Joh et al. 2013, *Selective Targeting of Brain Tumors with Gold Nanoparticle-Induced Radiosensitization*. PLOS ONE 8(4): e62425.



in vivo study:

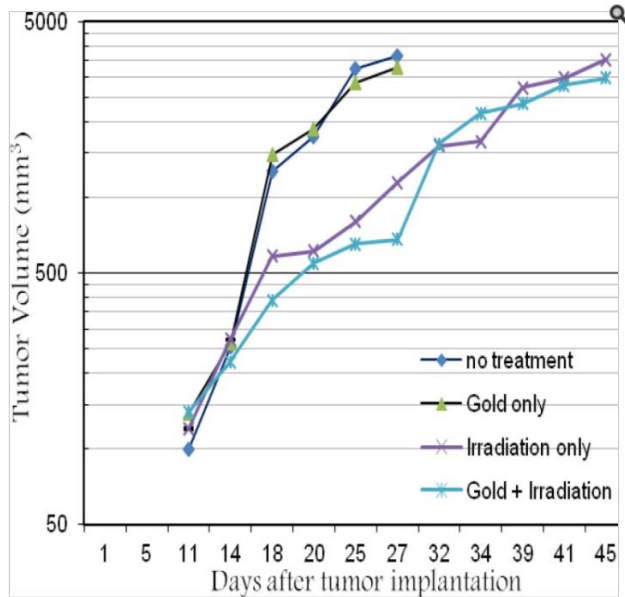
Mouse brain tissues irradiated immediately following GNP injection leads to more DNA DSBs compared to those receiving RT alone

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Mechanisms for Nanoparticle-Enhanced Radiation Damage

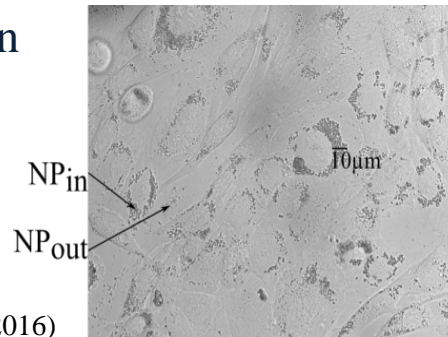


18 MV treatment of melanoma grown in mice (Anjidan *et al* 2013)

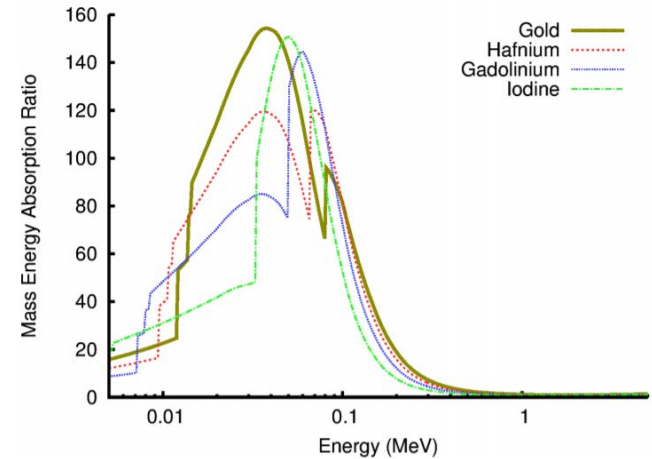
- **Beam energy:**
 - *in vivo* and *in vitro* experiments have shown significant NP radiosensitization with kV radiation (Hainfeld *et al* 2004, 2008, 2013, Chattopadhyay *et al* 2012).
 - MV experiments have shown: NP-enhancement and no NP-enhancement (Anjidan *et al* 2013, Wolfe *et al* 2015)

Mechanisms for Nanoparticle-Enhanced Radiation Damage

- High-Z: photon attenuation relative to water.
- Tumour uptake of NPs and localization relative to cellular DNA (Brun *et al* 2009, McKinnon *et al* 2016).
- AuNP size and concentration (McKinnon *et al* 2016, Butterworth *et al* 2012, Rahman *et al* 2009).



(McKinnon *et al* 2016)



McMahon, Paganetti, Prise, 2015

Simulating Nanoparticles: Microscopic scale?

- Models based on track structures have begun to predict trends in NP enhancement from single or multiple NPs (Geant4-DNA).
- In order to relate microscopic and macroscopic NP enhancement trends, condensed history models are often adopted (Martinez *et al.* 2017, McKinnon *et al.* 2016)
 - Advantages include faster computation times and capability to accommodate more complex geometry.
 - Often with condensed history models, NP enhancement from a *nano-sized* single NP is not observed.
 - Approximations are made for NP-loaded water or tissue material.
- How accurately can these models predict trends in microscopic dose enhancement?

Study of the effect of ceramic Ta₂O₅ nanoparticle distribution on cellular dose enhancement in a kilovoltage photon field

Sally McKinnon¹, Elette Engels¹, Moeava Tehei^{1,2,3}, Konstantin Konstantinov^{2,4}, Stéphanie Corde^{1,5}, Sianne Oktaria^{1,2,3}, Sebastien Incerti^{6,7}, Michael Lerch^{1,2}, Anatoly Rosenfeld^{1,2}, Susanna Guatelli^{1,2}



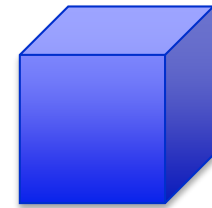
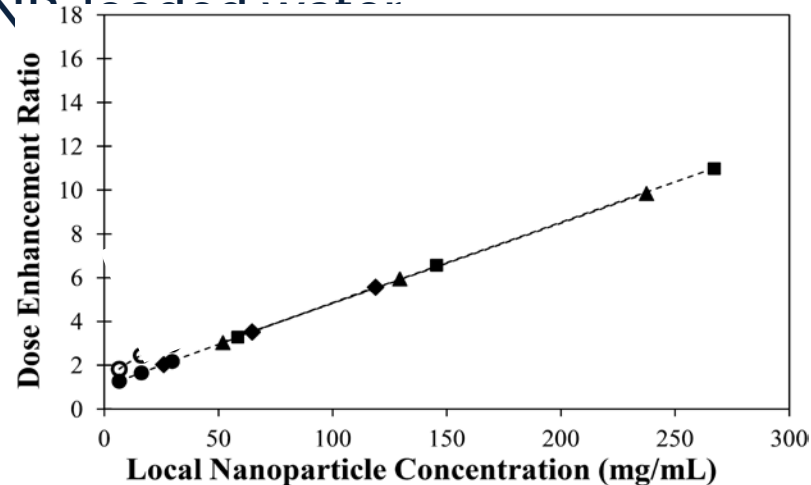
Physica Medica 2016
(DOI:

[tp://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2016.09.006](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2016.09.006))

Predicted Dose Enhancement with increasing NP concentration for N¹⁰⁰ irradiation

Penelope Physics, G4v10.1
Auger electrons included
Clinical 150 kVp X-ray beam

$$DER = \frac{D_{NP}}{D_W}$$



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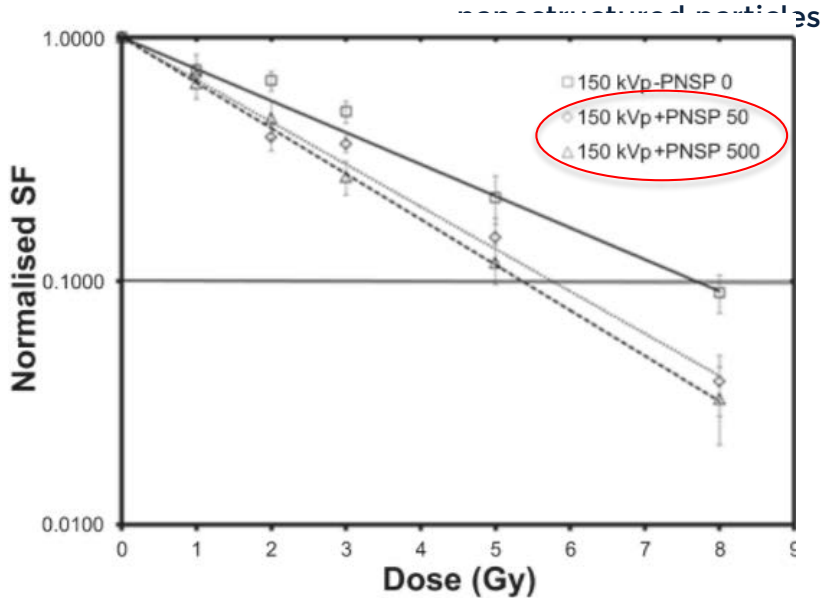


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Actual Nanoparticle Dose Enhancement

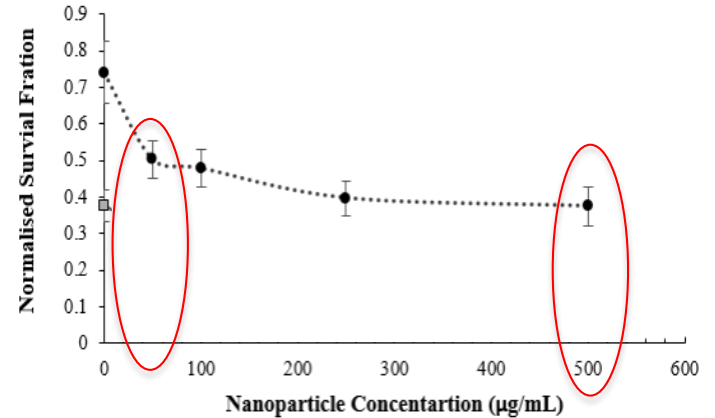
R. Brown et al. 2017:
at 2 Gy:

Nanostructures, concentrations and energies: an ideal equation to extend with Ta₂O₅ NPs therapeutic efficiency on radioresistant 9L tumor cells



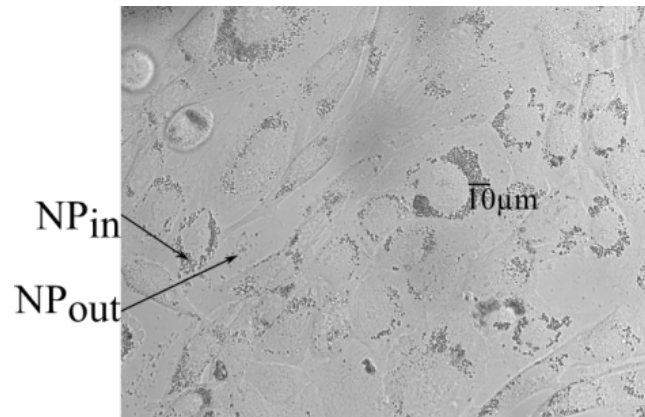
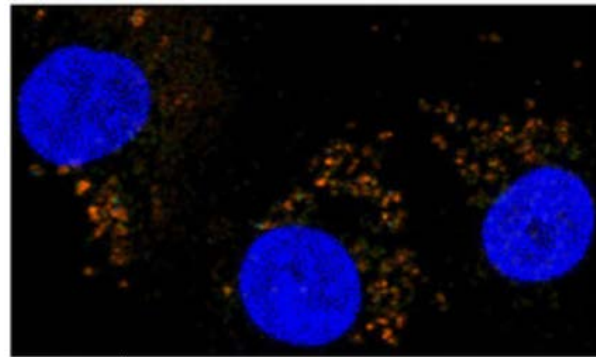
My Result

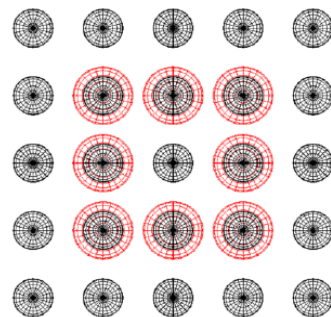
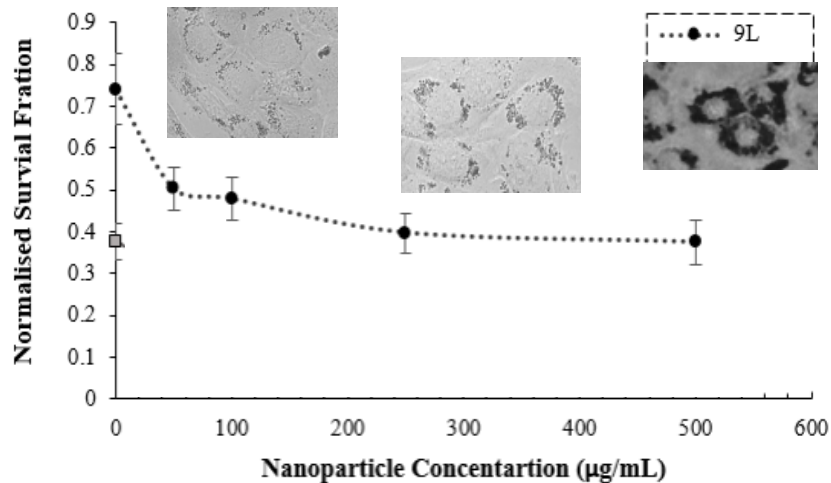
9L gliosarcoma



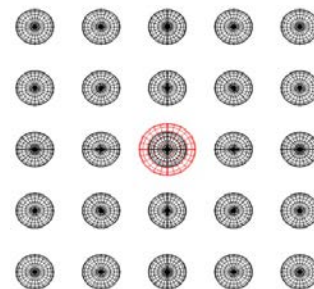
Simulating Nanoparticles: Considerations!

- Nanoparticle are never localized homogeneously.
- Localization and concentration begins to play a large role in the ability of the simulation to predict NP enhancement.
- Clusters of NPs can vary depending on the cell, NP and concentration.





Penelope
Physics, G4v10.1
Auger electrons
included,
150 kVp beam



Study of the effect of ceramic Ta₂O₅ nanoparticle distribution on cellular dose enhancement in a kilovoltage photon field

Sally McKinnon¹, Elette Engels¹, Moeava Tehei^{1,2,3}, Konstantin Konstantinov^{2,4}, Stéphanie Corde^{1,5}, Sianne Oktaria^{1,2,3}, Sebastien Incerti^{6,7}, Michael Lerch^{1,2}, Anatoly Rosenfeld^{1,2}, Susanna Guatelli^{1,2}

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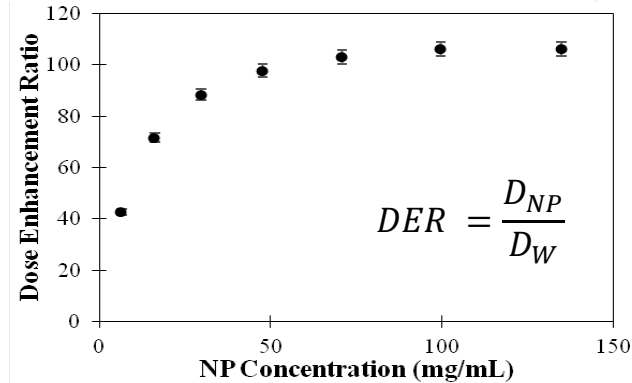
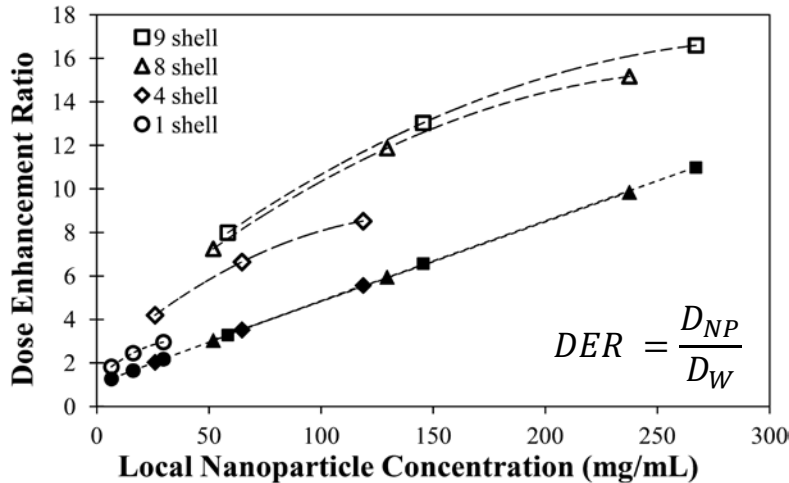
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Physica Medica 2016
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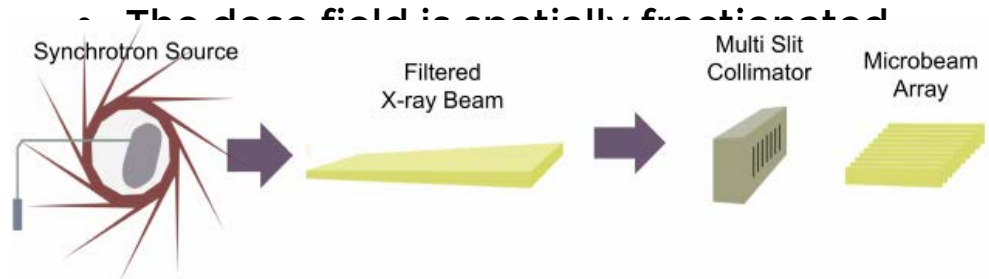
New Predicted Dose Enhancement:



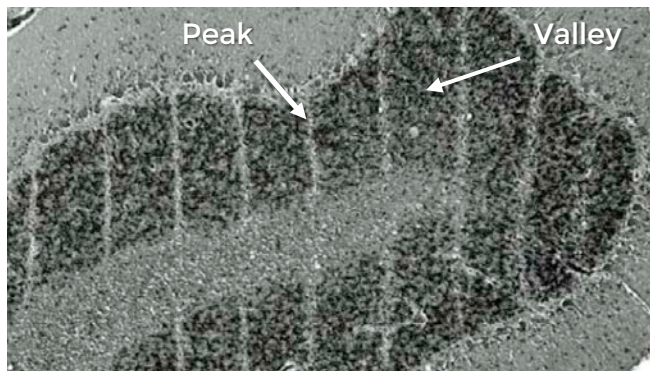
Clinical Outlooks for kV Radiation?

Microbeam tracks

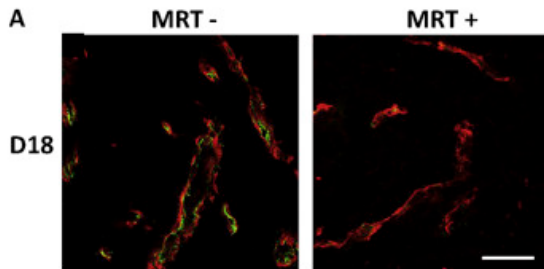
- kV radiation is used mostly for melanomas and cancers close to the surface of the skin.
- Can the benefit of NPs in the kV field be utilised therefore?
- Microbeam Radiation Therapy (MRT)
 - Administers devastating doses in order of 100s of Gy to the tumour.



Why is MRT Effective?



Decrease in 9GLS tumor blood volume, vessel density and endothelial denudation



- High peak doses administered at high dose rates (40-2000 Gy/s), while low valley doses spare tissue.
- Several mechanisms have been suggested:
 - cytotoxic effects on tumor cells
 - a decrease in blood vessel number leading to decreased perfusion and tumor hypoxia
 - Modulation of the immune system
 - communication between lethally irradiated cells in the microbeam path and valley cells

Bouchet et al. Physica Medica 31 (2015) 634-641

Bouchet et al. International Journal of Radiation Oncology (2016)

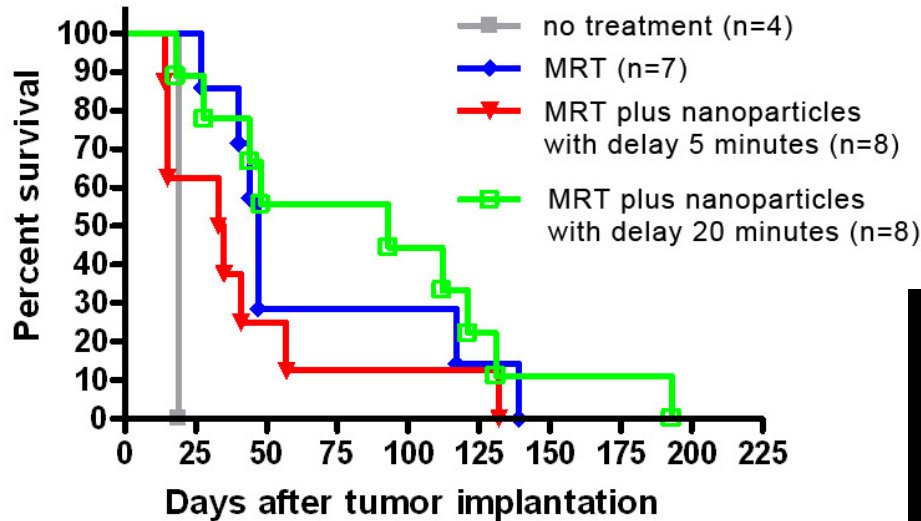
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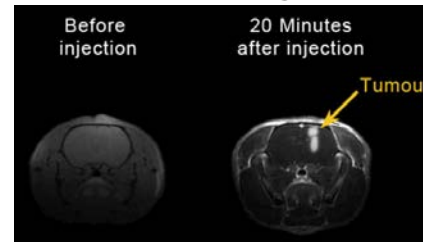
Nanoparticles in MRT

- Is there enhancement?
- Gadolinium-based nanoparticles (Le Duc *et al.* 2011):



in vivo increase in rodent survival observed with NPs present!

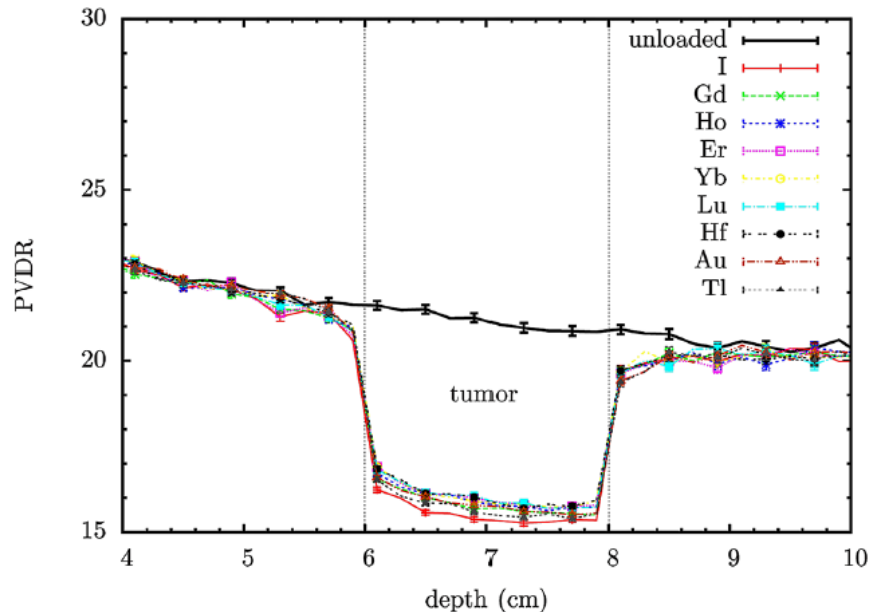
Both valley and peak dose is being enhanced in the kV field



Le Duc, ACS nano 5, 9566-74 (2011)

MRT and Nanoparticle Simulations

- NP-Loaded material with high-Z particles for MRT:



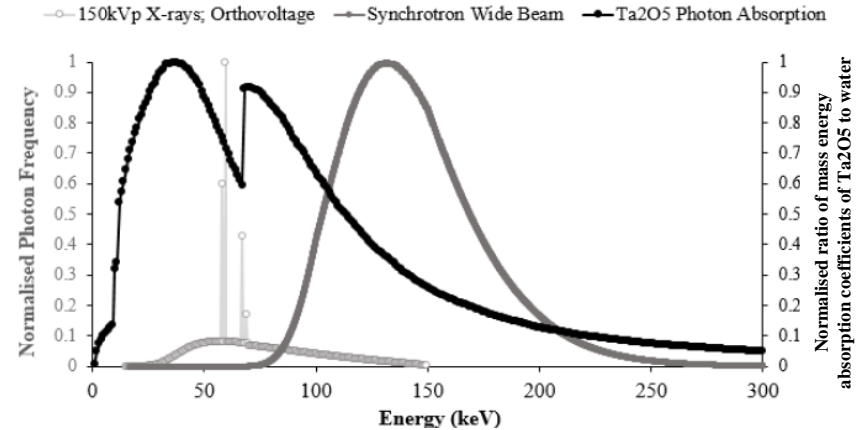
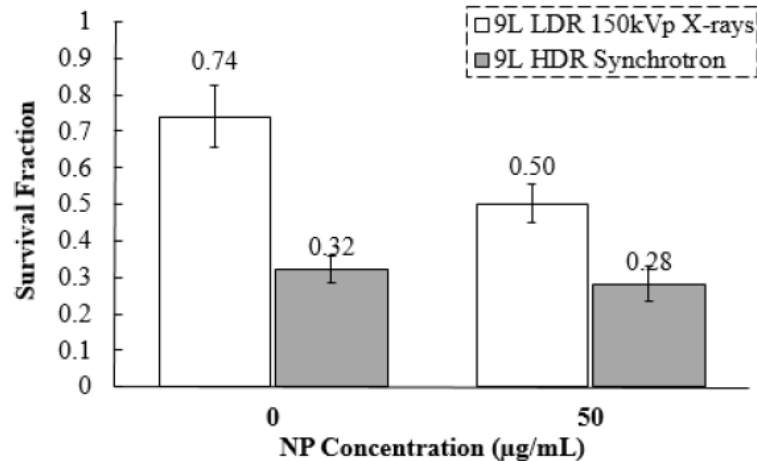
- *Peak-to-valley dose ratio (PVDR) was considered.*
- *Small PVDR: valley dose \rightarrow peak dose.*
- However, rarely NPs distribute homogeneously amongst and inside cells...
- **What implications do NP clusters have on NP-enhanced MRT?**

Martinez and Prezado, Medical Physics **38**, 4430 (2011);

Engels, 2017 Geant4 User Workshop

Experimental Results – Synchrotron Broad Beam

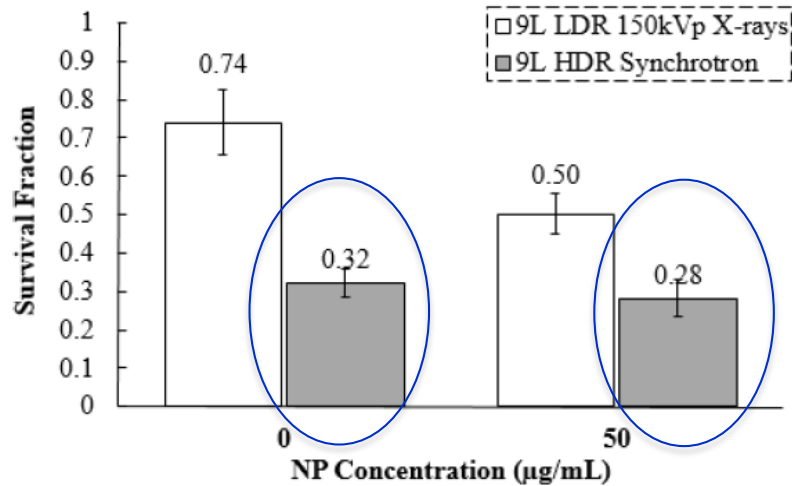
- Tantalum Oxide Nanoparticles in Synchrotron Broad Beam



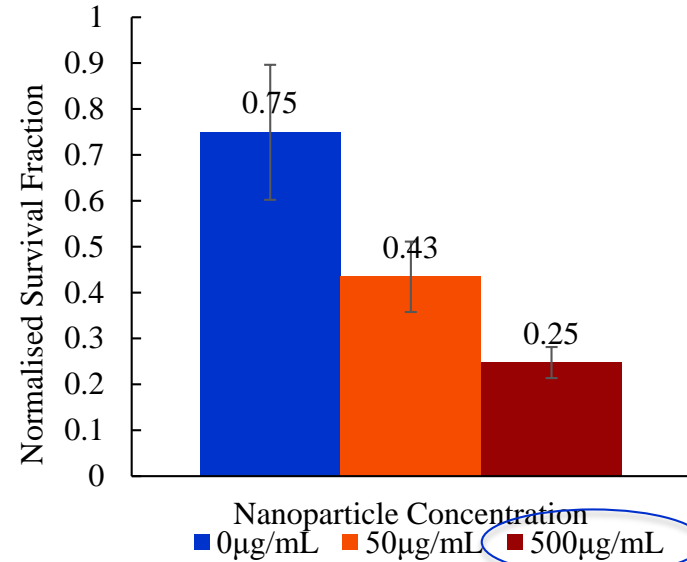
Engels et al. Journal of Physics: Conference Series 777 (2017) 012011

Experimental Results - MRT

Dose: 2 Gy
Synchrotron Energy: 90 keV



Valley Dose: 0.4 Gy
Energy: 90 keV



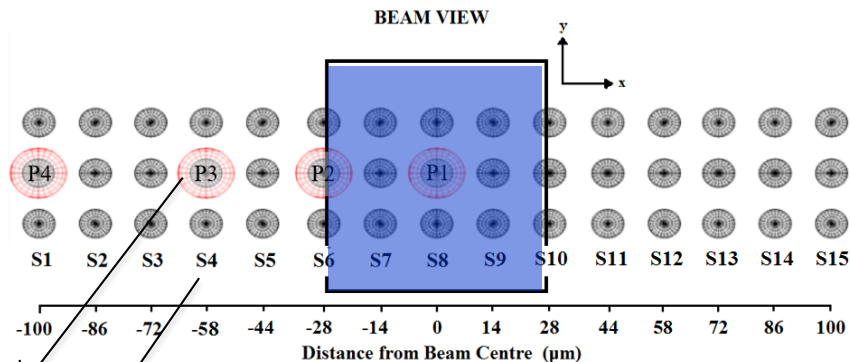
Engels et al. Journal of Physics: Conference Series 777 (2017) 012011
Engels et al. Physica Medica 32 (2016) 1852-1861



Optimizing dose enhancement with Ta₂O₅ nanoparticles for synchrotron microbeam activated radiation therapy

Elette Engels¹, Stéphanie Corde^{1,5}, Sally McKinnon¹, Konstantin Konstantinov^{2,4}, Sébastien Incerti^{6,7}, Anatoly Rosenfeld^{1,2}, Moeava Tehei^{1,2,3}, Michael Lerch^{1,2}, Susanna Guatelli^{1,2}.

Penelope Physics,
Auger electrons modelled
G4v10.1



Nanoparticle clusters in various locations

Sensitive volumes (nuclei) grouped as sections (S1-S15) at certain positions

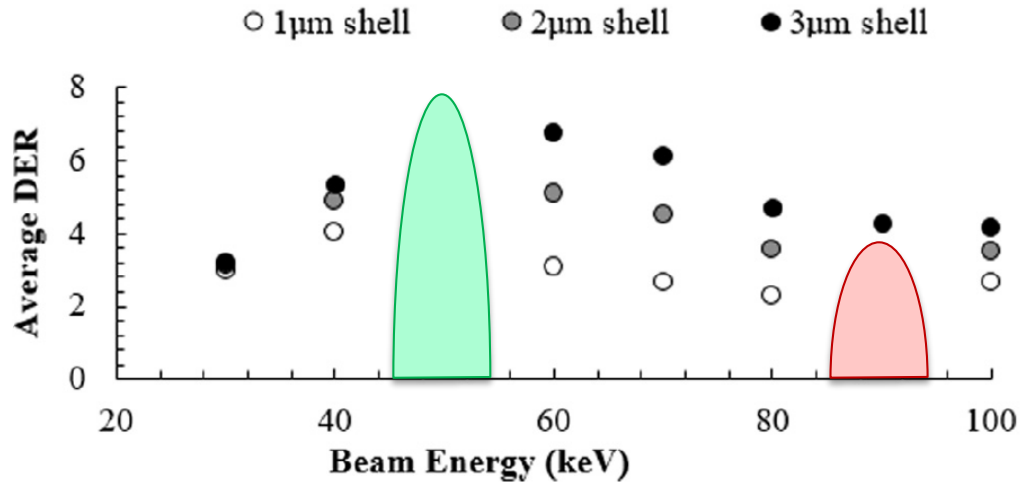
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The Broad Beam Case:

- Why the lack of NP-cluster enhancement?
- Follows with the maximum in mass energy absorption coefficient

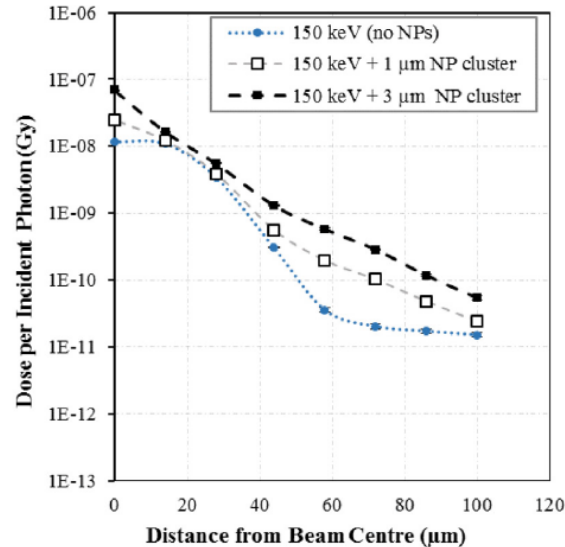
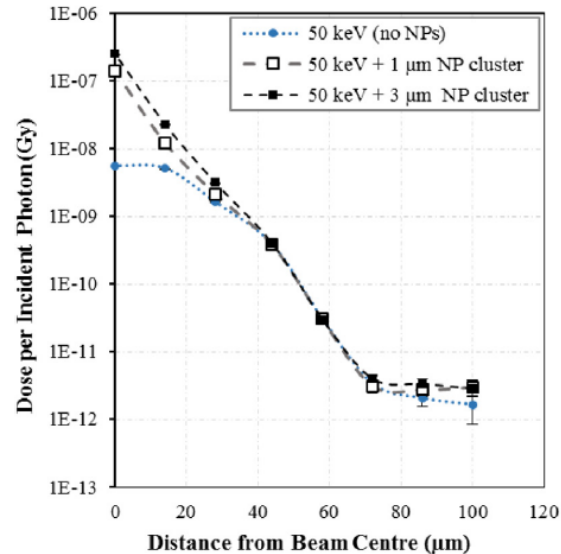


In the peak region or broad beam equivalent

Engels et al. Physica Medica 32 (2016) 1852-1861

Nanoparticle Clusters in the Peak Region

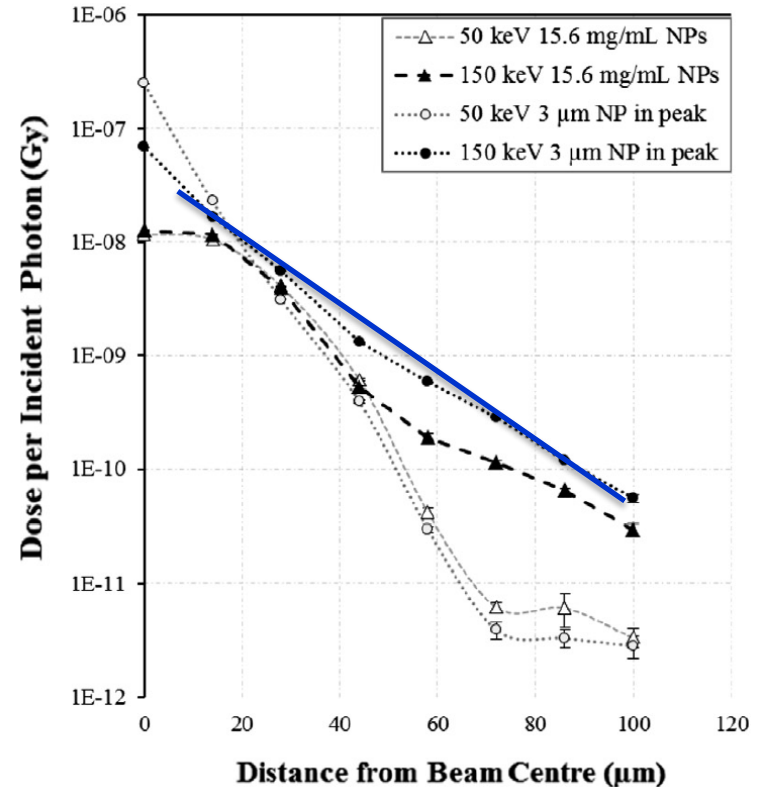
- Energy Dependence



Engels et al. Physica Medica 32 (2016) 1852–1861

Nanoparticle Clusters in the Peak Region vs NP-loaded water

- Energy Dependence
 - Secondary electron range at high energies is enough to reach the valley - again!
 - Low energy with NP-loaded material shows little overall enhancement
- Any benefit to low energy MRT?



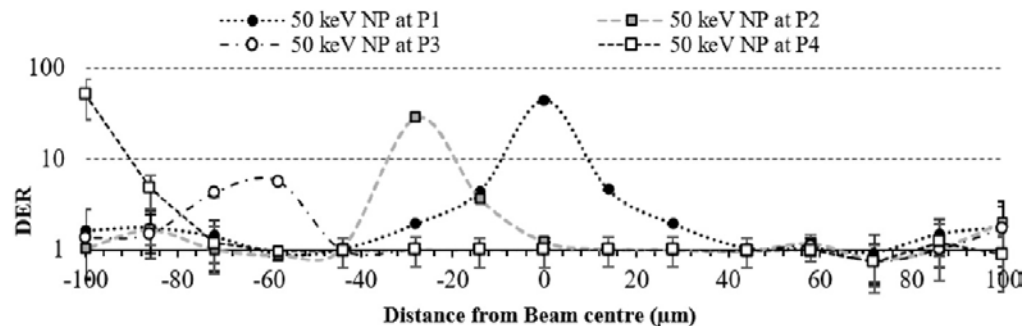
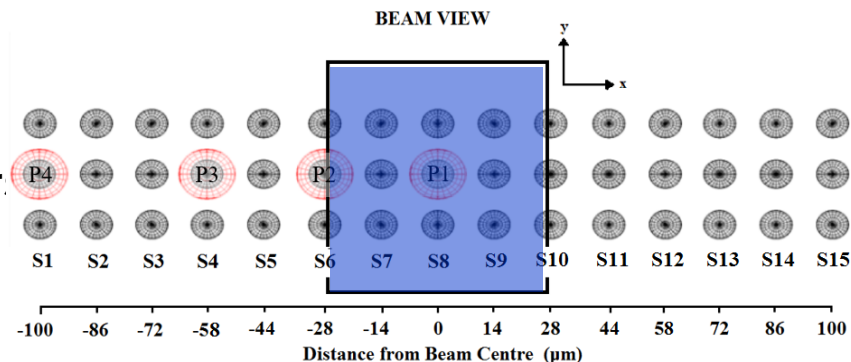
Low Energy MRT?

Lets look at more nanoparticle cluster.

- These “cells” benefit from the low energy photons that cause significant NP-cluster enhancements
- With low energy MRT, we now have **selective NP enhancement** to cells that can take up more nanoparticles!

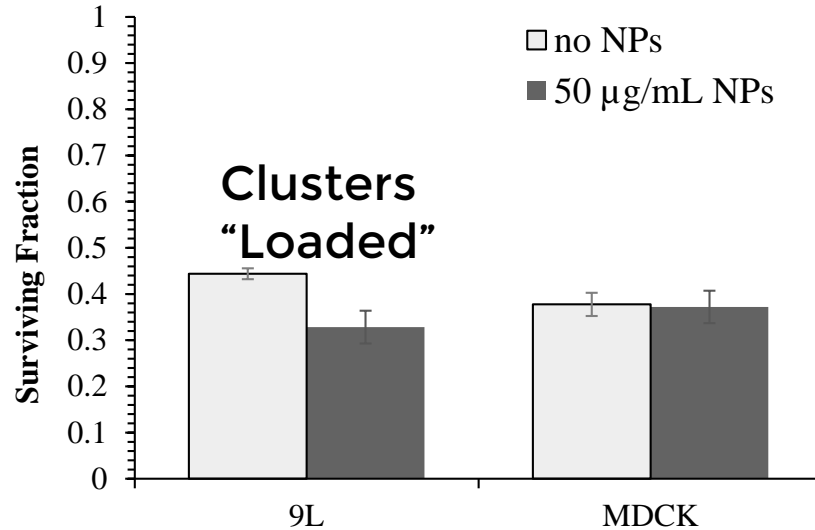
- tumour cell types

Engels et al. Physica Medica 32 (2016) 1852–1861



Does this agree Experimentally?

- MRT:
- 42 keV
- 50/400 μm configuration
- 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$



Summary and Future Directions

- NPs have the ability to increase localised tumour dose
- Simulating the dose distribution in any field must model realistic NP configuration and concentration.
- We are now trialling new nanoparticles for NP-enhanced image-guided MRT both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.
- We begin *in vivo* experiments at the Australian Synchrotron.



Thank you!

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Assoc/Prof. Michael Lerch
Dr Stéphanie Corde
Dr Konstantin Konstantinov
Dr Sianne Oktaria
Dr Nan Li

Co-collaborators:

Dr Jeremy Davis
Dr Peter Lazarakis
Dr Sally McKinnon
Matthew Westlake
Nathan Thorpe
Dr Andrew Stevenson
Andrew Dipuglia
Marjorie McDonald
Matthew Cameron
Dr Sébastien Incerti
Lee Taylor
Kathrin Bogusz



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