

# Ophthalmic tumors

Wolfgang Sauerwein

## Today's menu

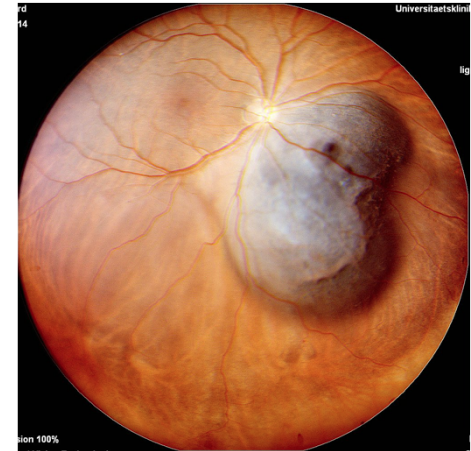
- Introduction and some basics on uveal melanoma
- Brachytherapy for intraocular tumors
- Proton therapy for intraocular tumors
- Proton therapy for melanoma of the conjunctiva
- Future developments in ophthalmic brachytherapy
- High energy beams in ocular tumors
- How to choose the optimal approach in an individual patient?



# Ophthalmic tumors

## Rare diseases

In Germany 800 new cases per year  
(>500 of them treated in Essen)



## What is different to „normal” radiotherapy?

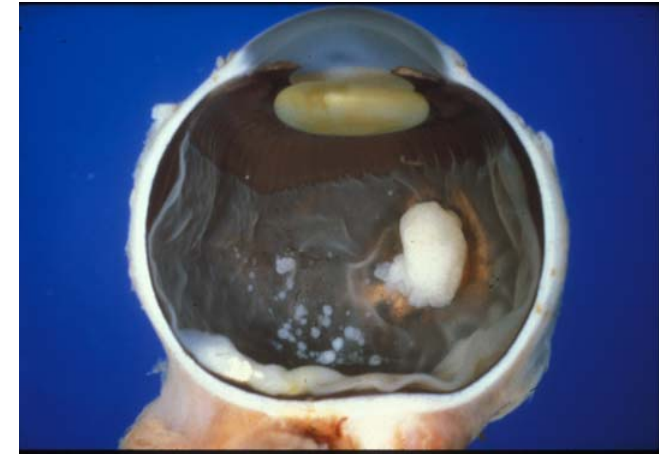
- Very small treatment volume (electron equilibrium??)
- Very close to important functional structures
- Treated in dedicated centers, which have different equipments

## Special techniques are mandatory



## Ophthalmic tumors: Target volumes

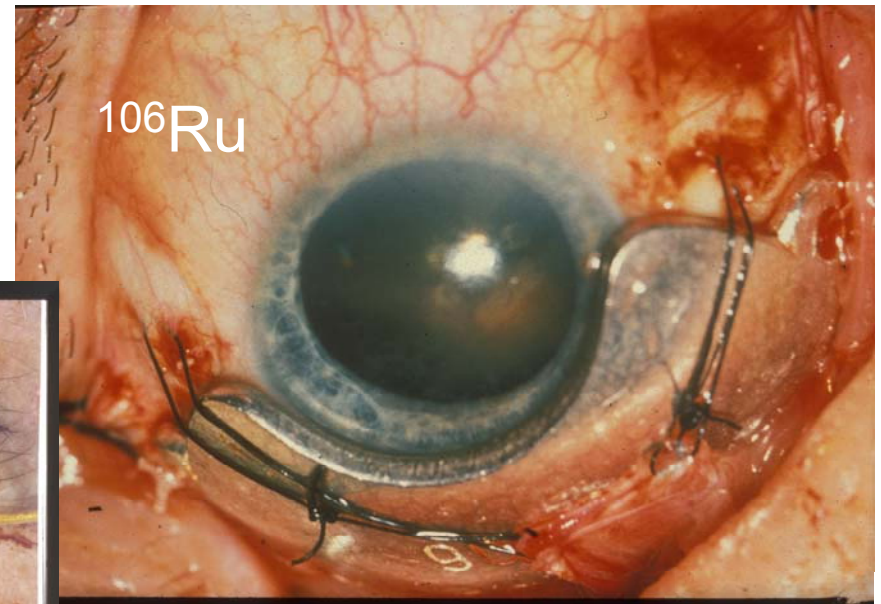
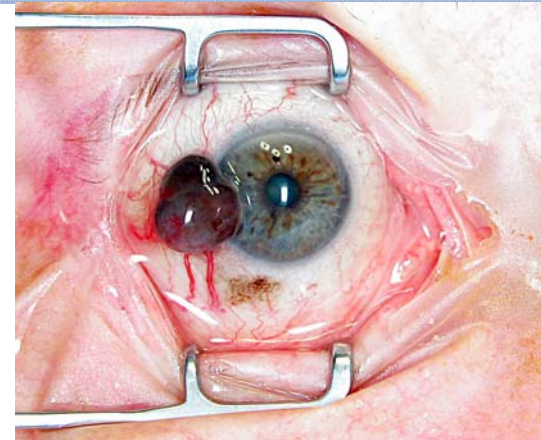
- the entire eye (metastases)
- Localized tumor in the eye (melanoma, retinoblastoma)
- the retina and the vitreous (retinoblastoma, lymphoma)
- the orbit (retinoblastoma, melanoma...)
- others (iris, conjunctiva...)





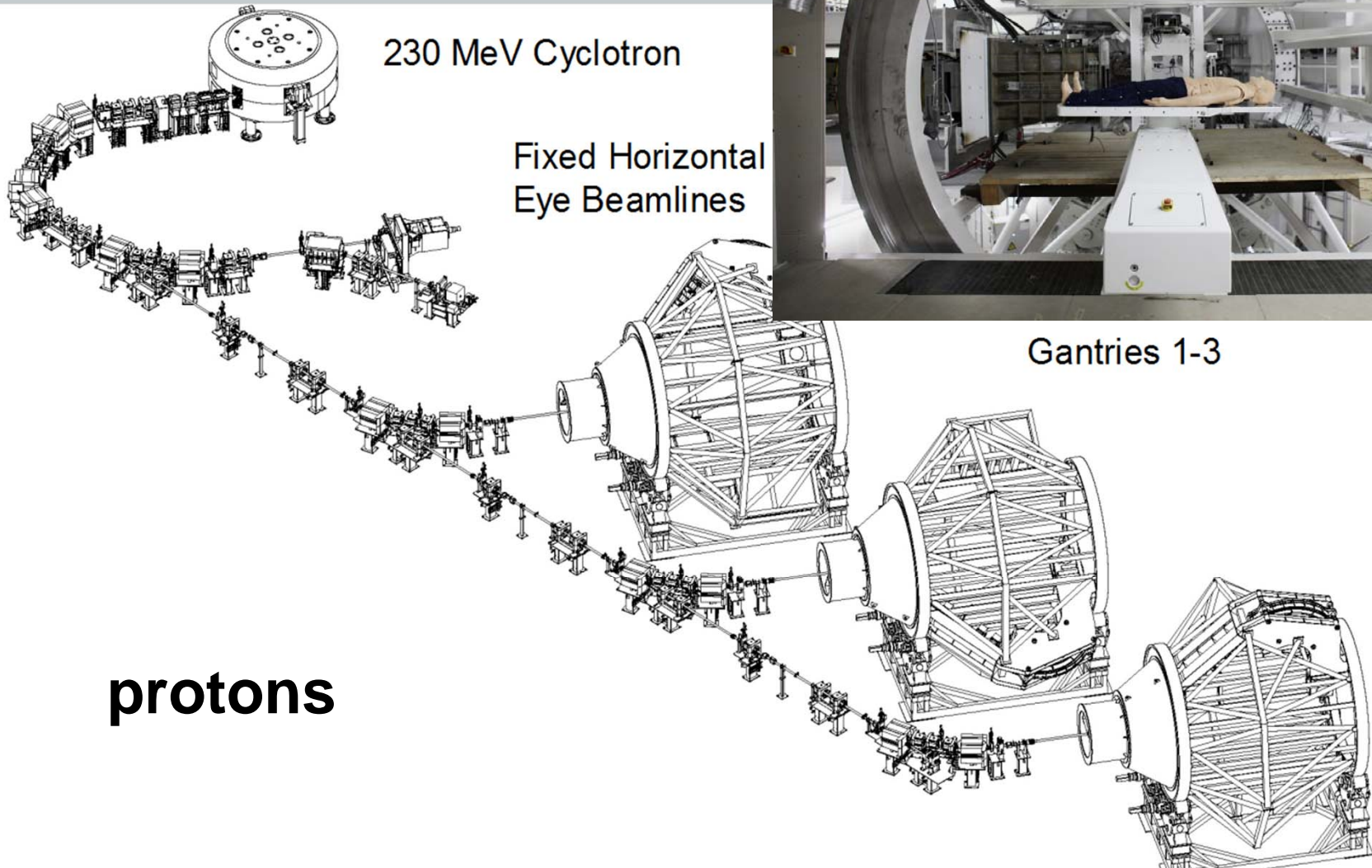
# Ophthalmic tumors: Irradiation techniques

## Brachytherapy



# Ophthalmic tumors: Irradiation techniques

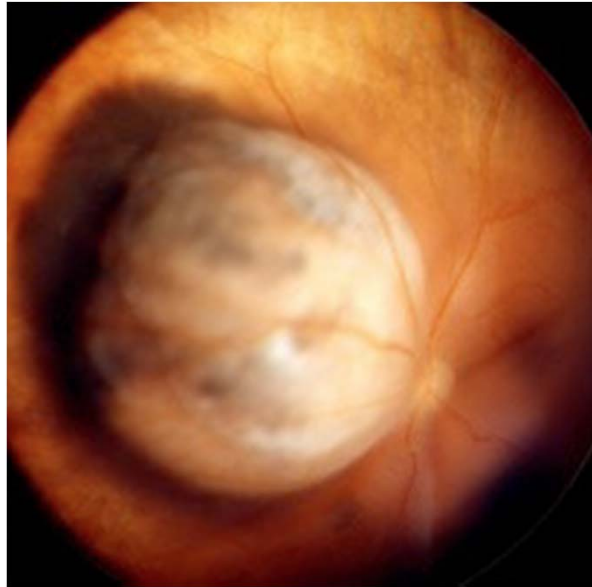
## External beam radiotherapy



**protons**







Brachytherapy

# INTRAOCULAR TUMORS



# uveal melanoma



## Protection

of the optic nerve, the papilla and the macula, the orbit

**Dose** >100 Gy

**Techniques** - brachytherapy using radioactive plaques  
- protons



# Metastases in uveal melanoma

## risk factors



genetics

localization

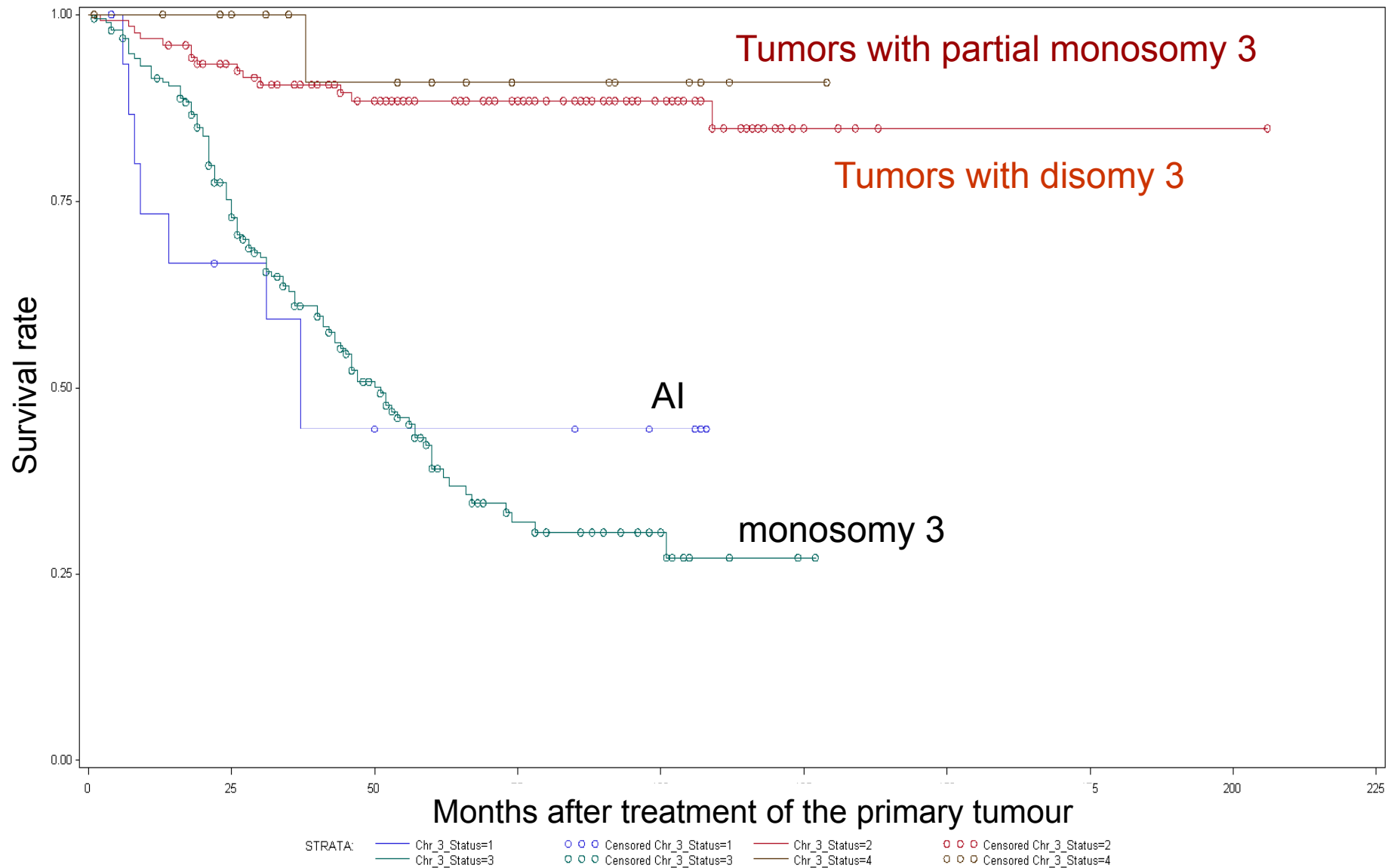
size

extra-ocular growth



# Chromosome 3 status predicts survival

Tumour related survival of 374 enucleated patients (1998 – 2008)



## Ru-106 plaques

- $\beta$ -irradiation with a background of  $\gamma$  Bremsstrahlung
- maximal energy of  $\beta$  rays: 3,53 MeV
- half-life: 366 days
- steep dose gradient:  
in 6 mm depth  $\sim$  10% of dose rate at the surface
- big choice of different applicators
- prescribed dose:
  - at the sclera 700 (- 1500 )Gy
  - at tumor apex  $>130$  Gy
- indicated for tumors  $\leq 6$  mm height





# Ru-106 plaques





## I-125 plaques

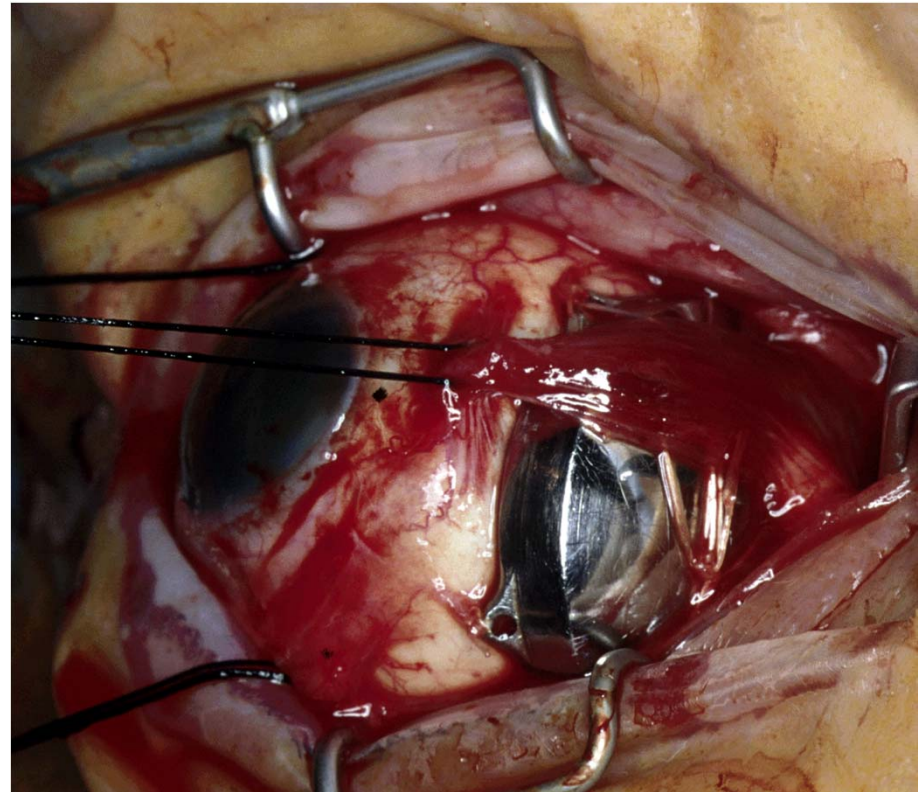
- Photon irradiation mean energy 27 - 35 keV
- Half life: 60 days
- in 10-12 mm depth 10% of dose rate at the surface
- Plaques have to be produced at the hospital (8-12 seeds/plaque)
- Prescribed dose:
  - at the sclera 300(- 500 )Gy
  - at tumor apex >80 Gy
- Indication for tumors 8 - 12 mm height



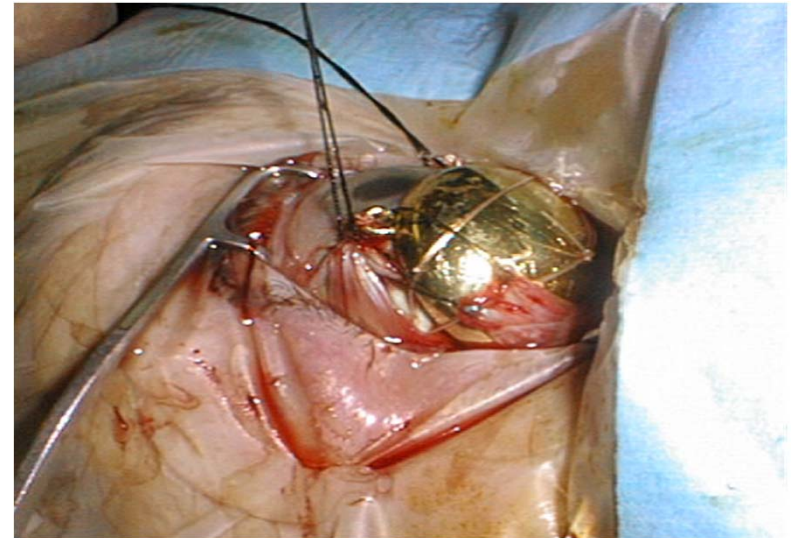
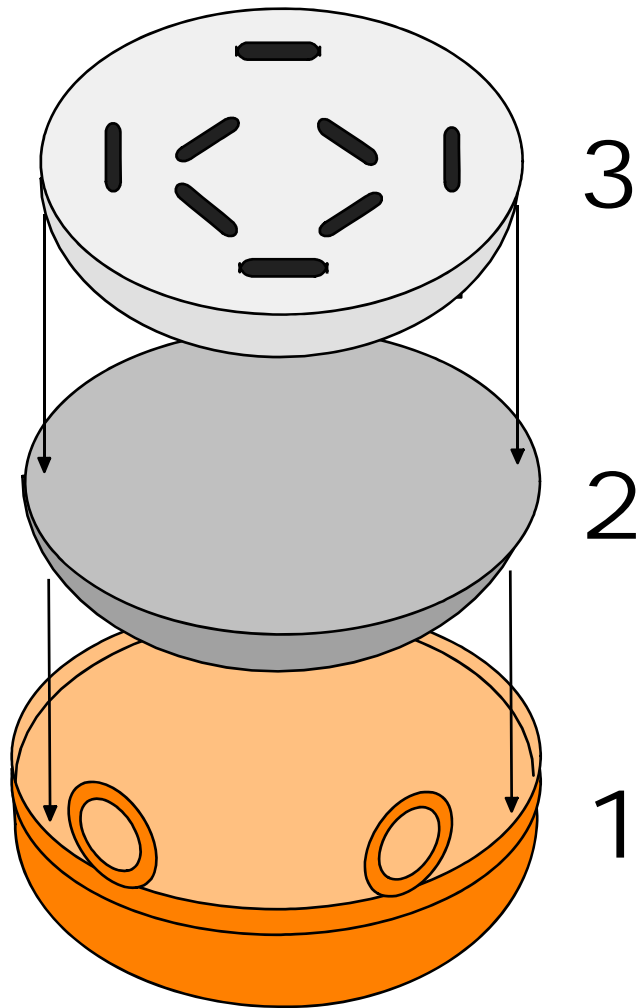
## I-125 plaques



plaque in stainless steel with  
Persepex inlay



# I-125 / Ru-106 bi-nuclide-plaque



# Dose distribution of a $^{106}\text{Ru}$ -plaque

tumor: 8 mm

dose:

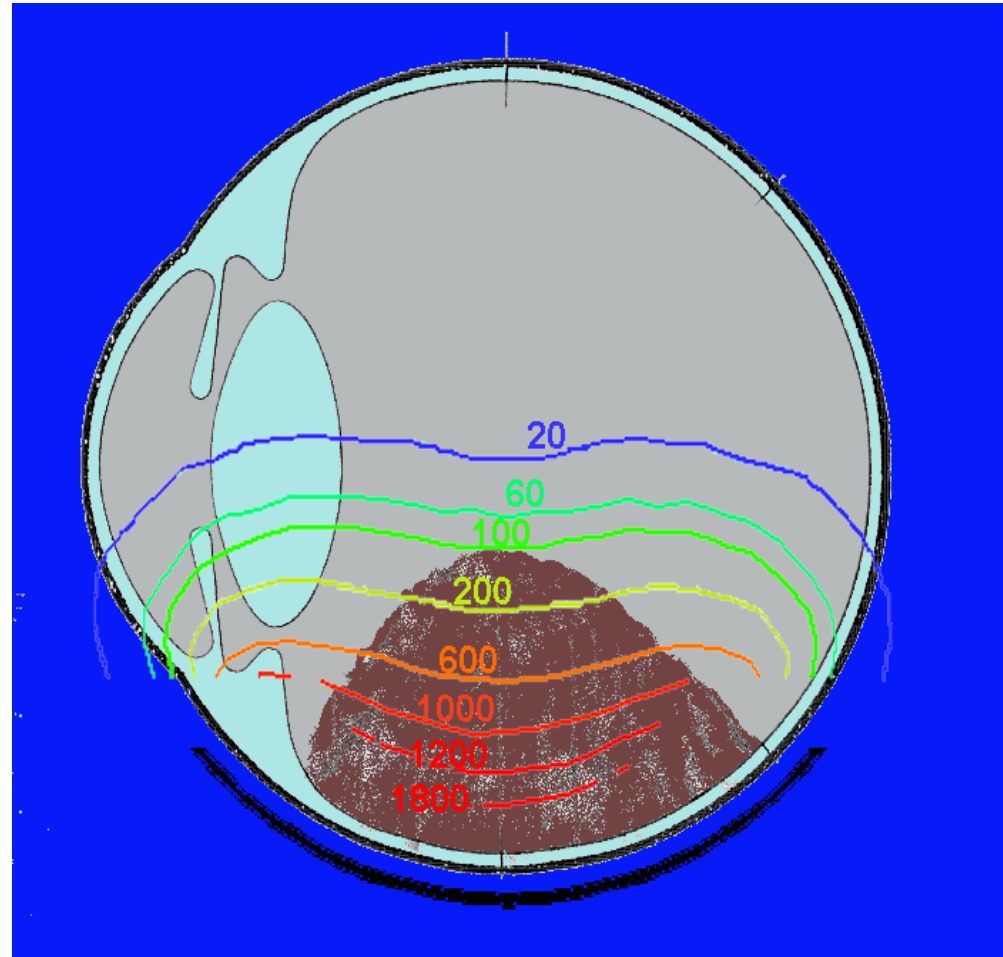
apex: 100 Gy

base: 2200 Gy

sclera

opposite:

1Gy





## Dose distribution of a $^{125}\text{I}$ -plaque

tumor: 8 mm

dose:

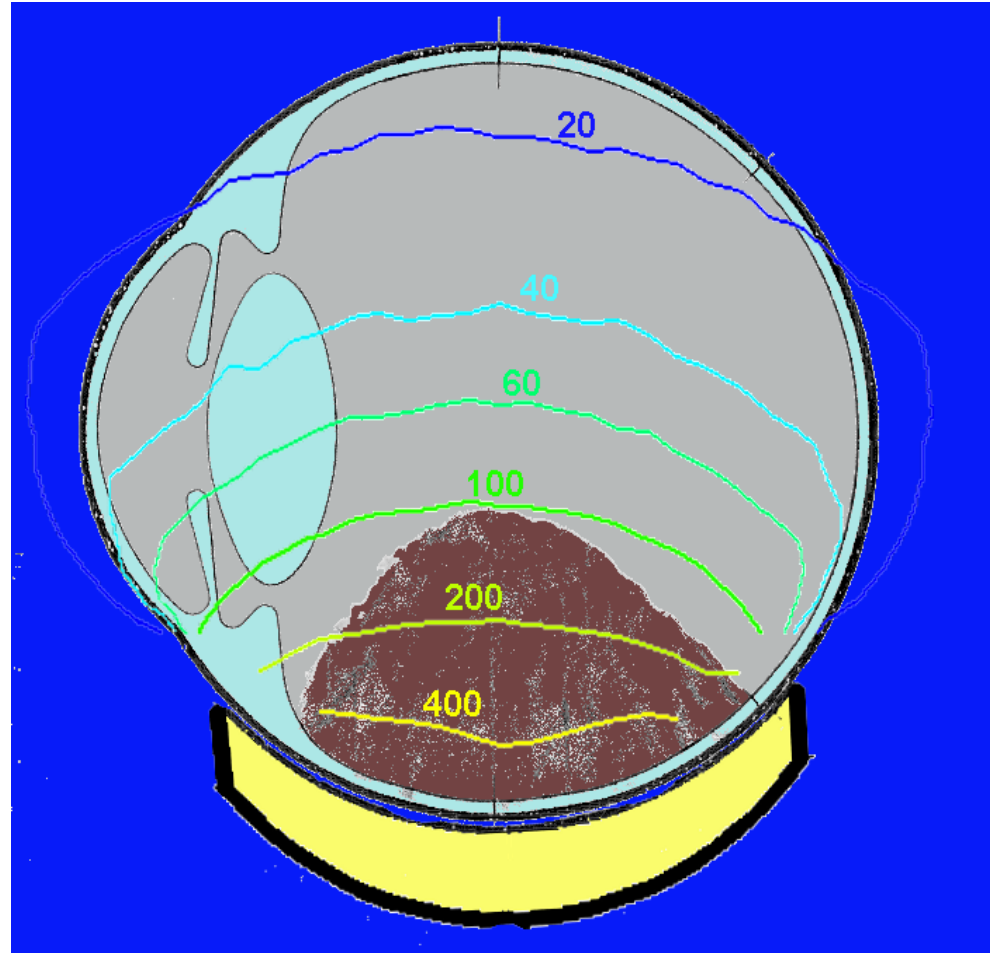
apex: 100 Gy

base : 440 Gy

sclera

opposite:

15 Gy



# Dose distribution of a bi-nuclide plaque

tumor: 8 mm

dose:

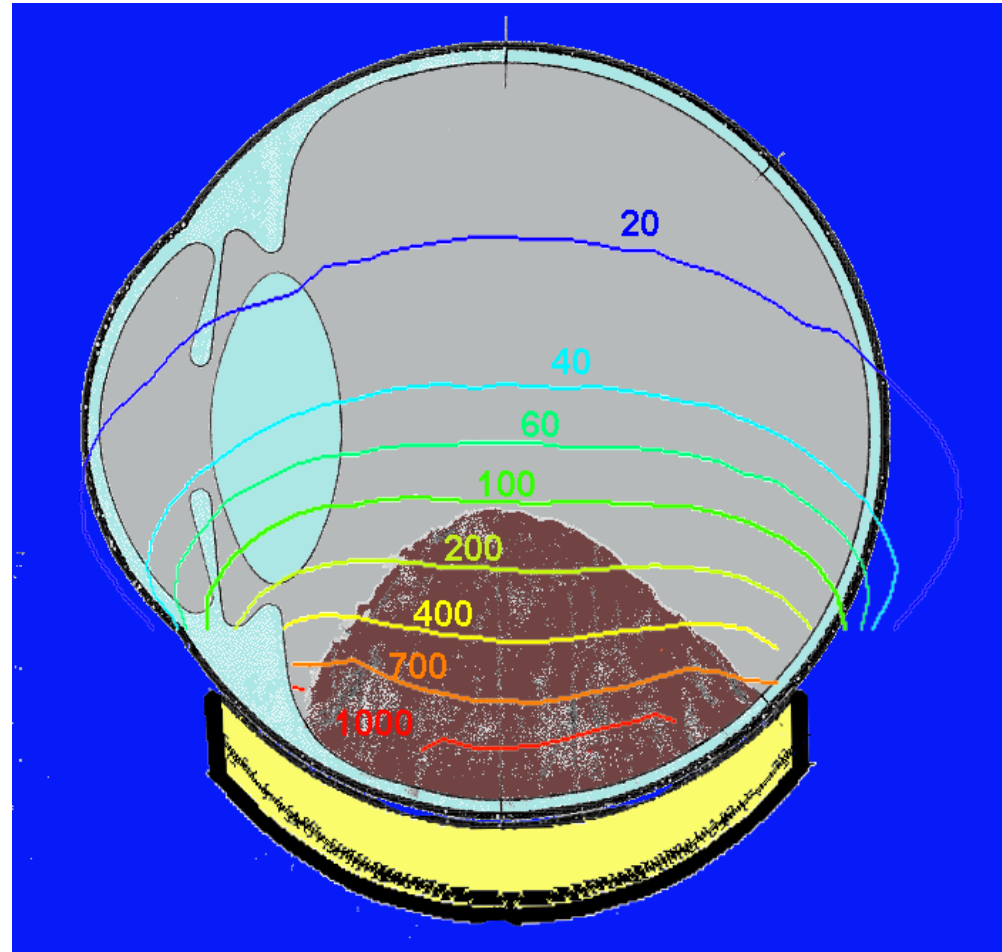
apex: 100 Gy

base 1200 Gy

sclera

opposite:

9 Gy



### Advantages as compared to a $^{125}\text{I}$ -plaque

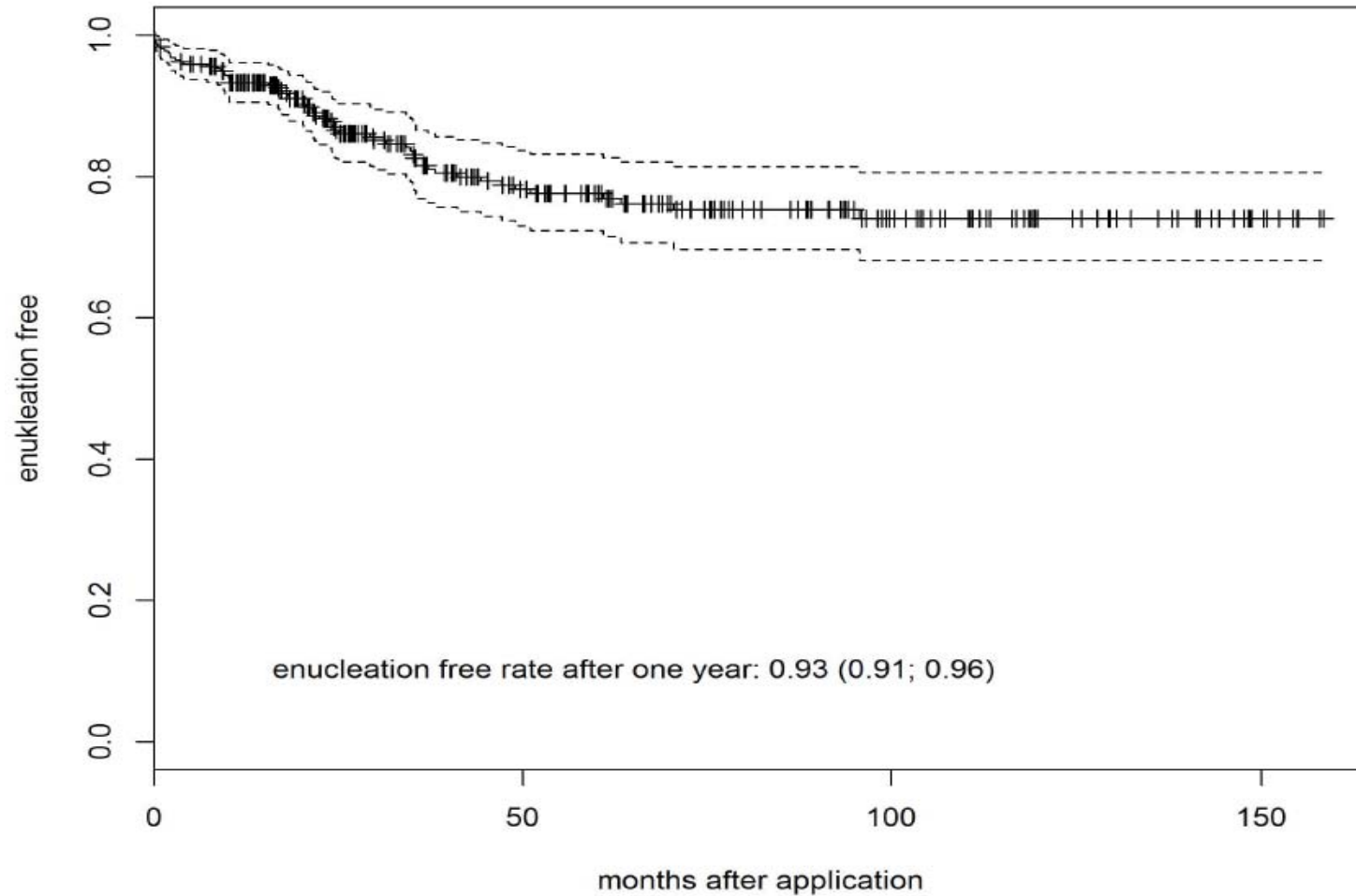
- > contact dose
- < integral dose
- > dose to the tumor
- < dose to structures at risk



For tumors with height 7 – 11 mm

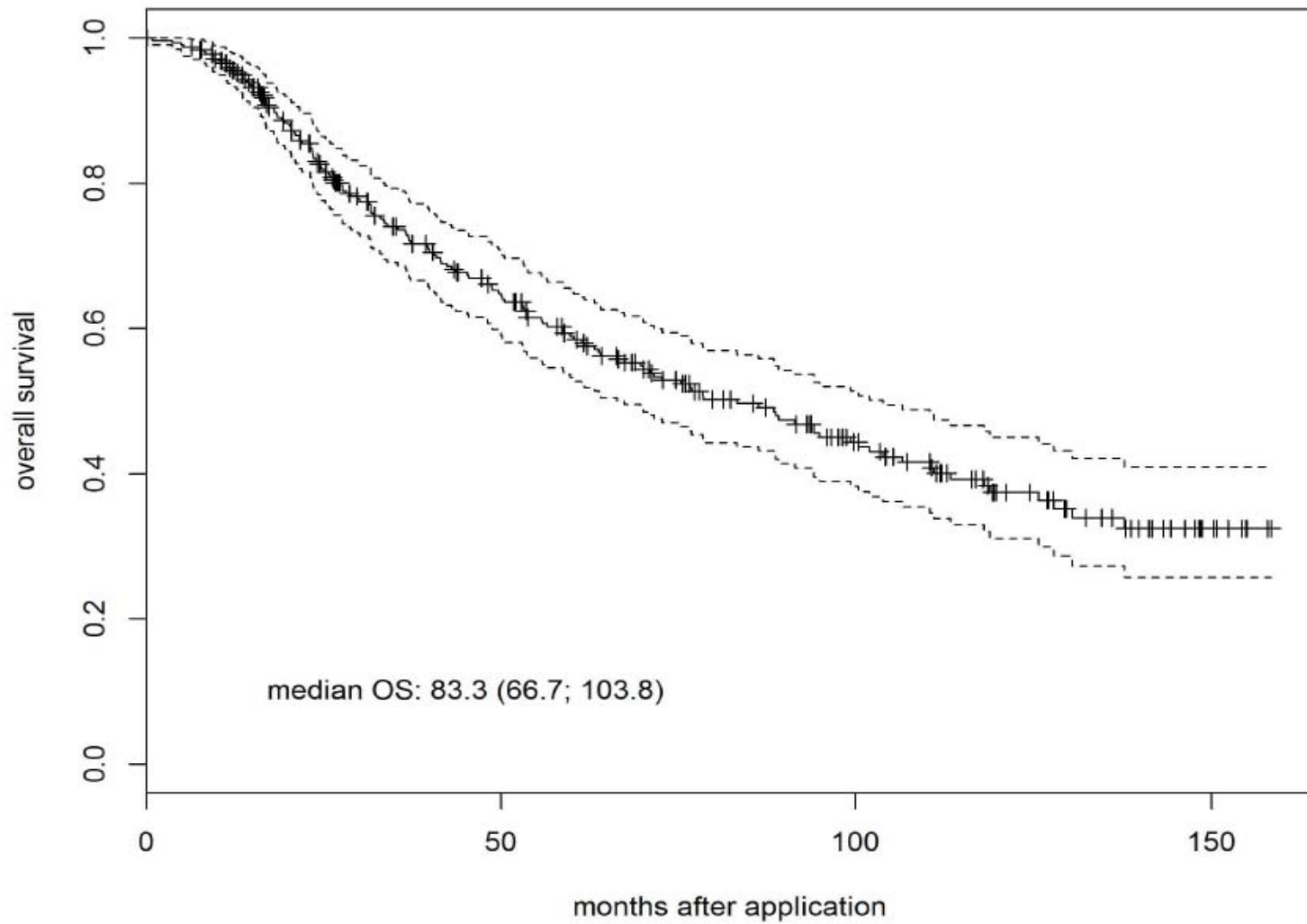


# I-125 / Ru-106 bi-nuclide-plaque: Eucleation rate

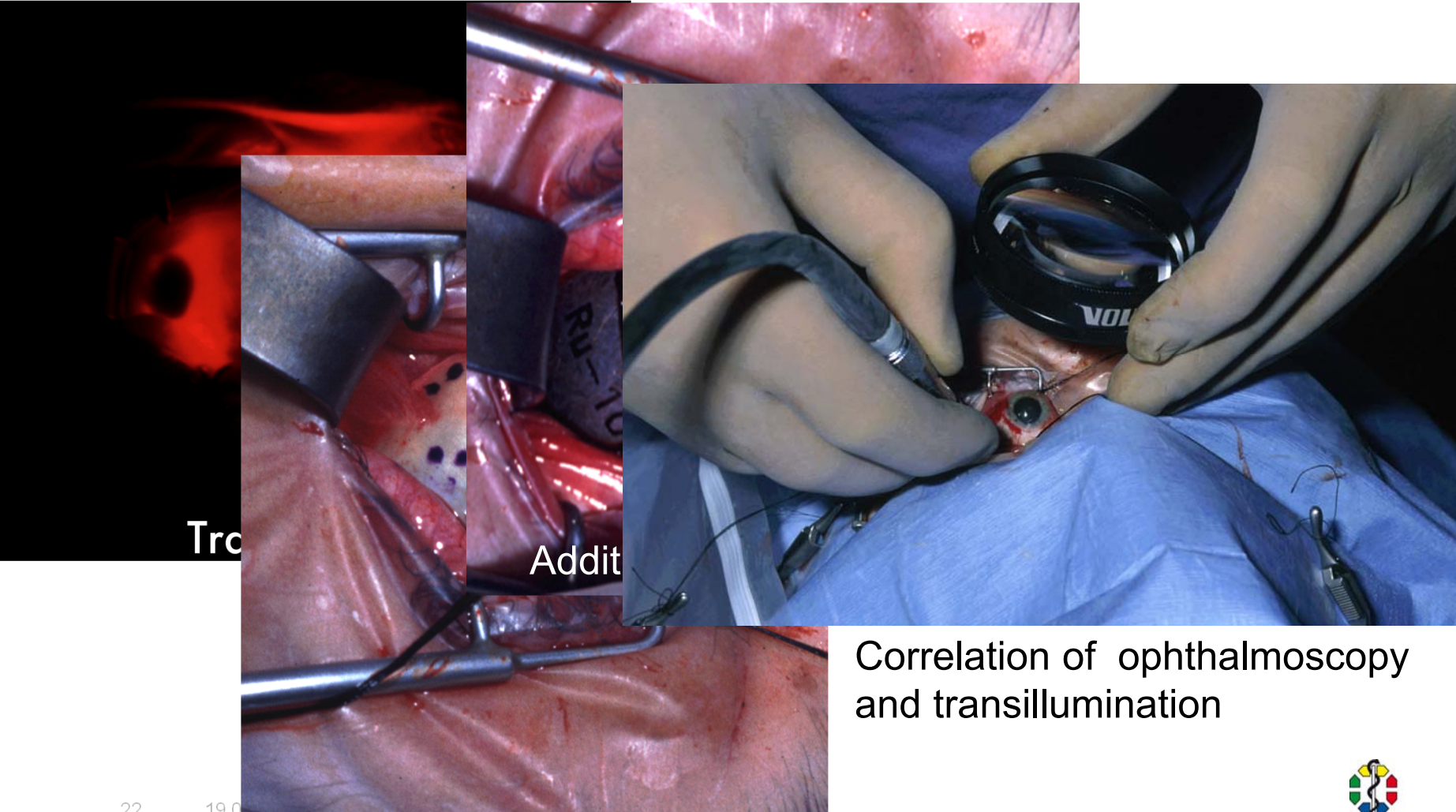




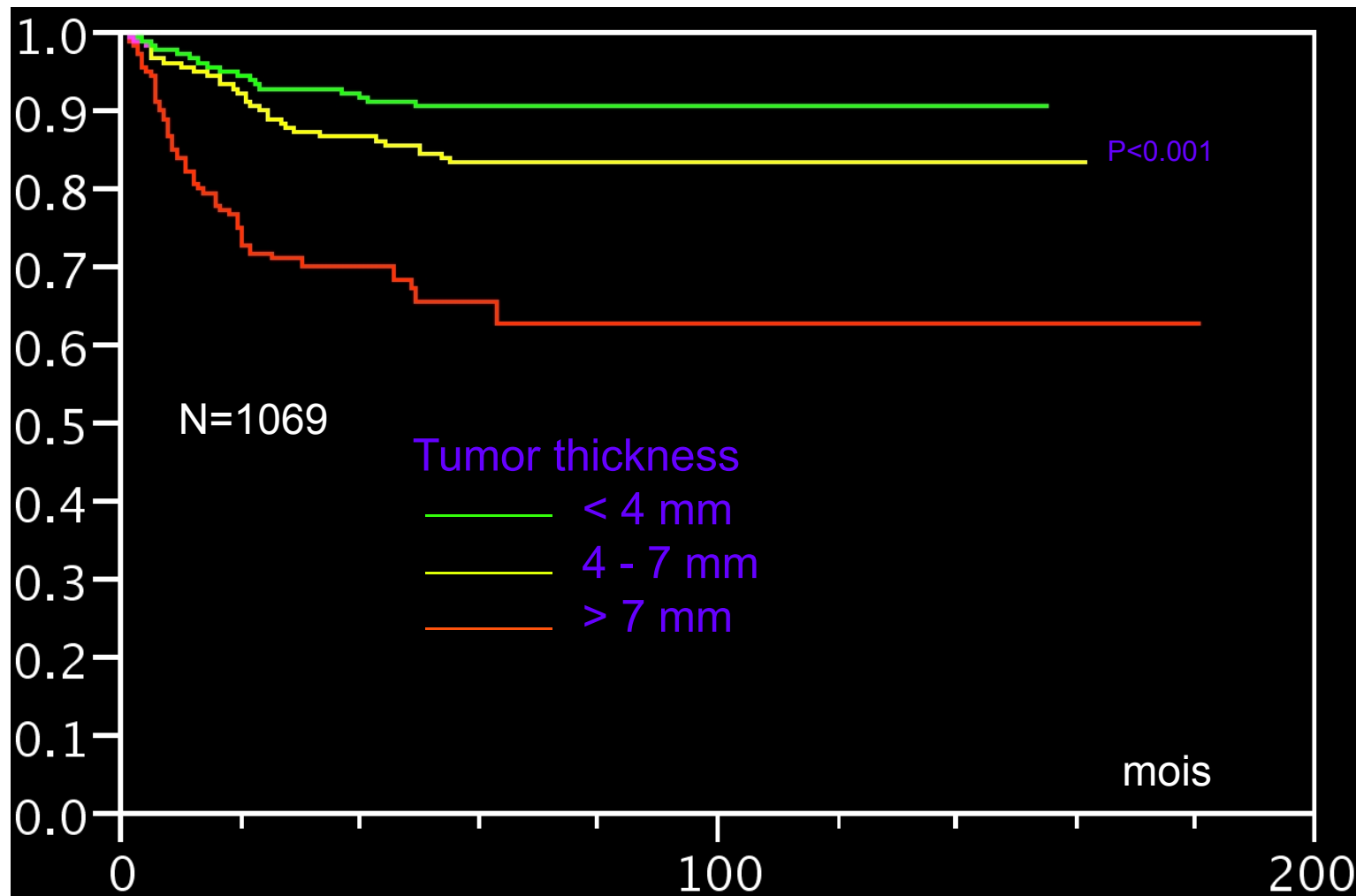
# I-125 / Ru-106 bi-nuclide-plaque: survival



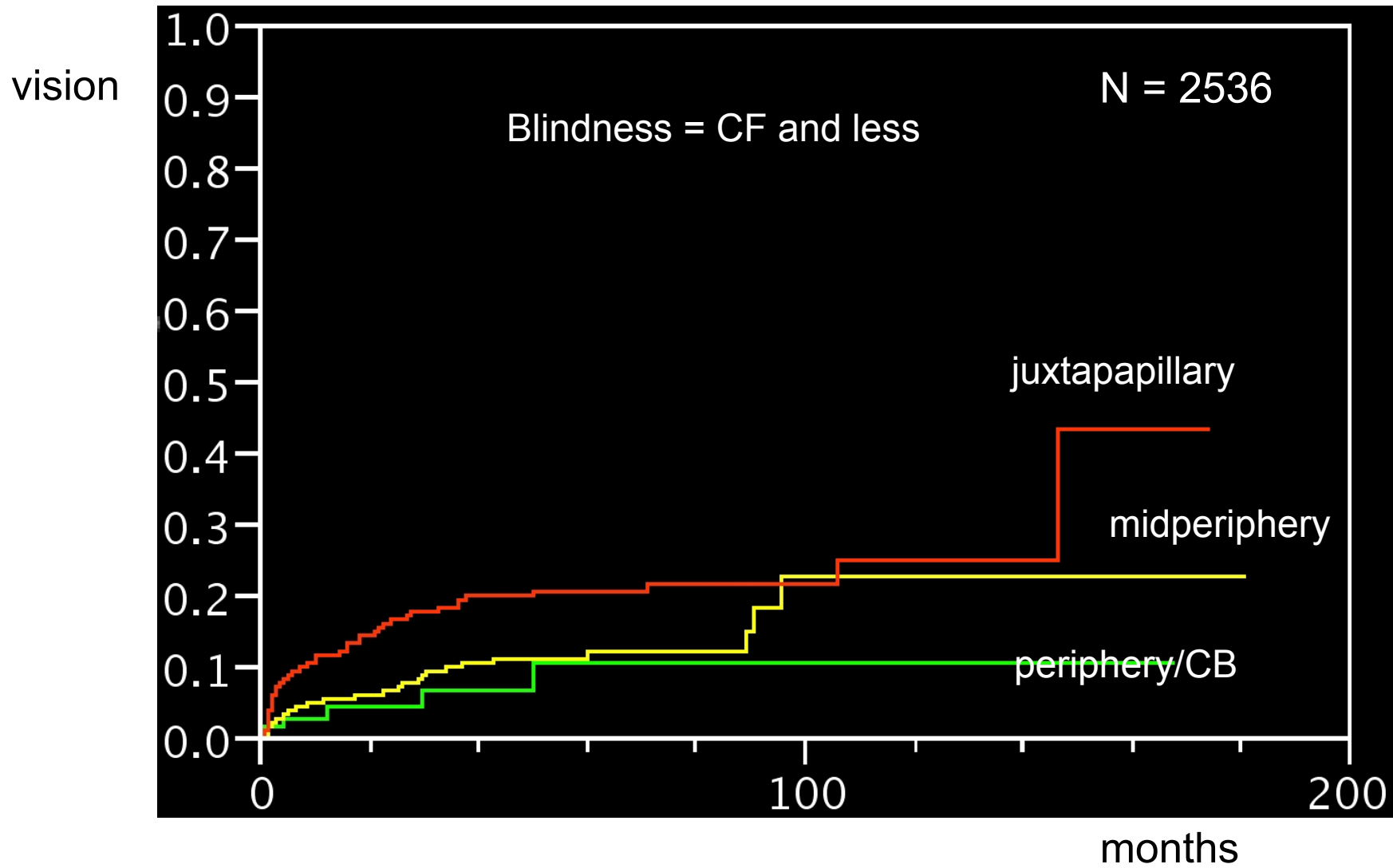
# Surgical technique



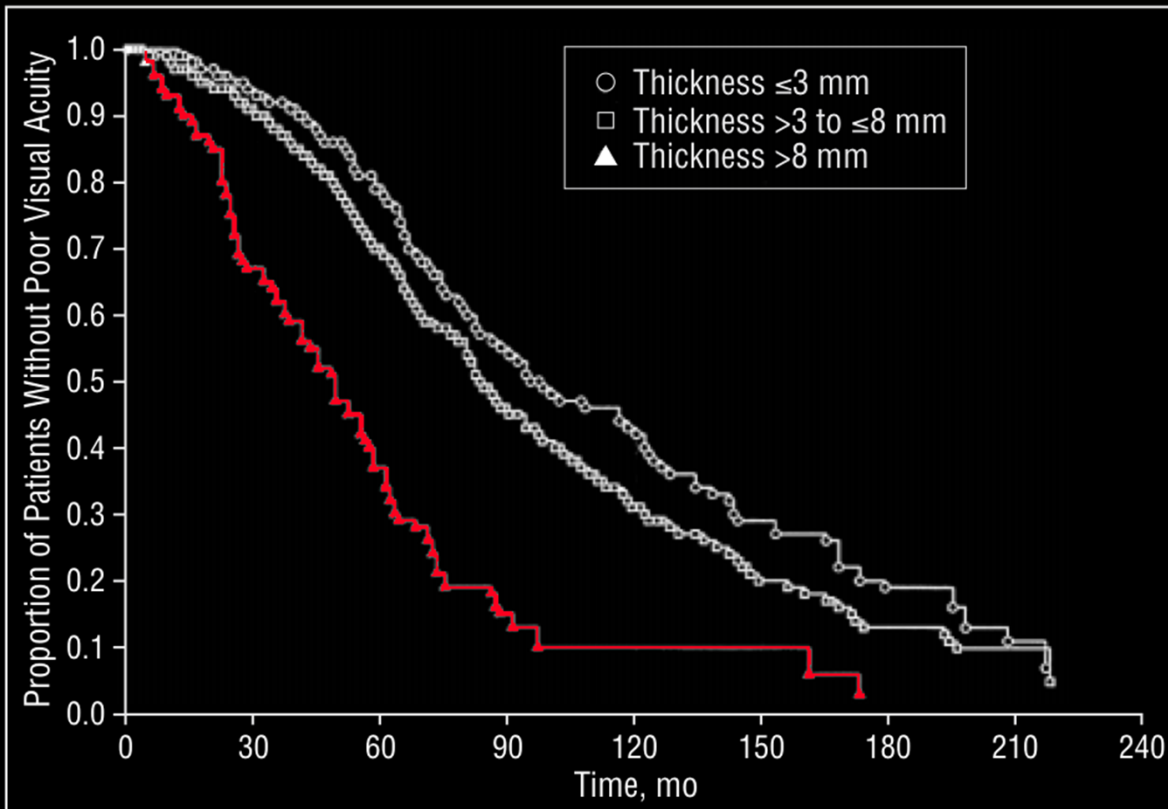
# Local recurrences after Ru-106



# Visual acuity after after Ru-106



# Visual acuity after I-125



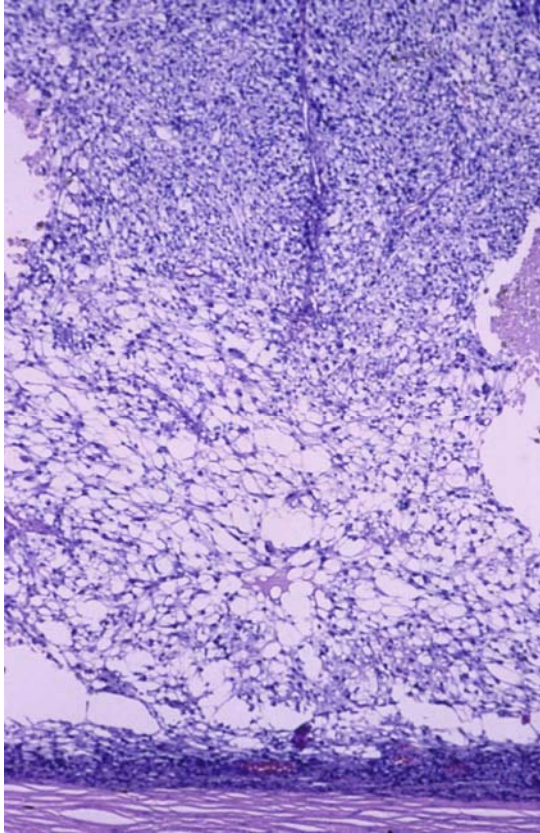
**Figure 1.** Kaplan-Meier estimates showing the proportion of patients free of poor visual acuity (20/200 to no light perception) over time according to tumor thickness for 1106 patients with uveal melanoma treated with plaque radiotherapy.

Shields et al. 2000

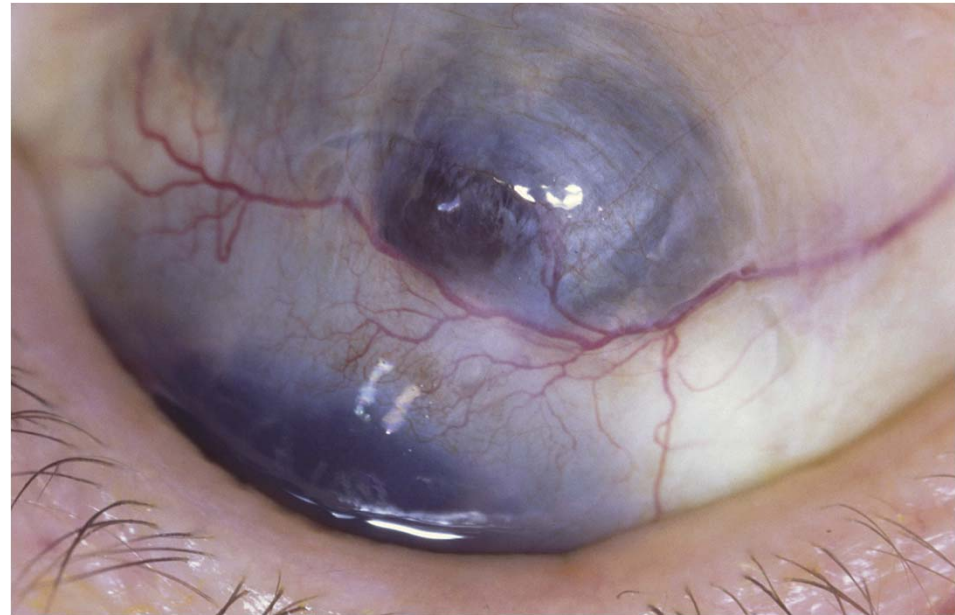




## Ru-106: limits



incomplete  
destruction



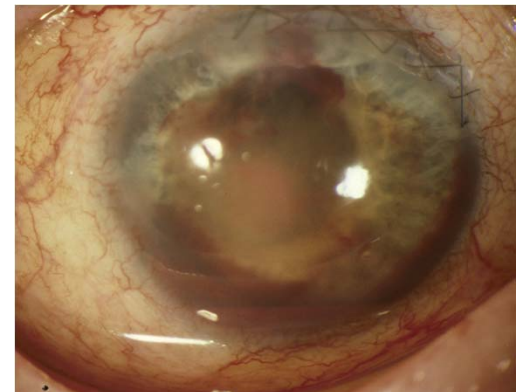
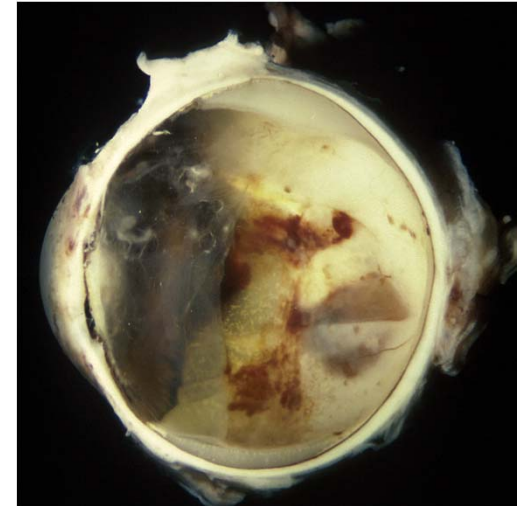
scleral necrosis

**Tumor height**



### Complications

- Long standing exsudative retinal detachment
- Radiation cataract
- Radiation induced optic neuropathy
- Radiation retinopathy, ocular ischemia, neovascular glaucoma

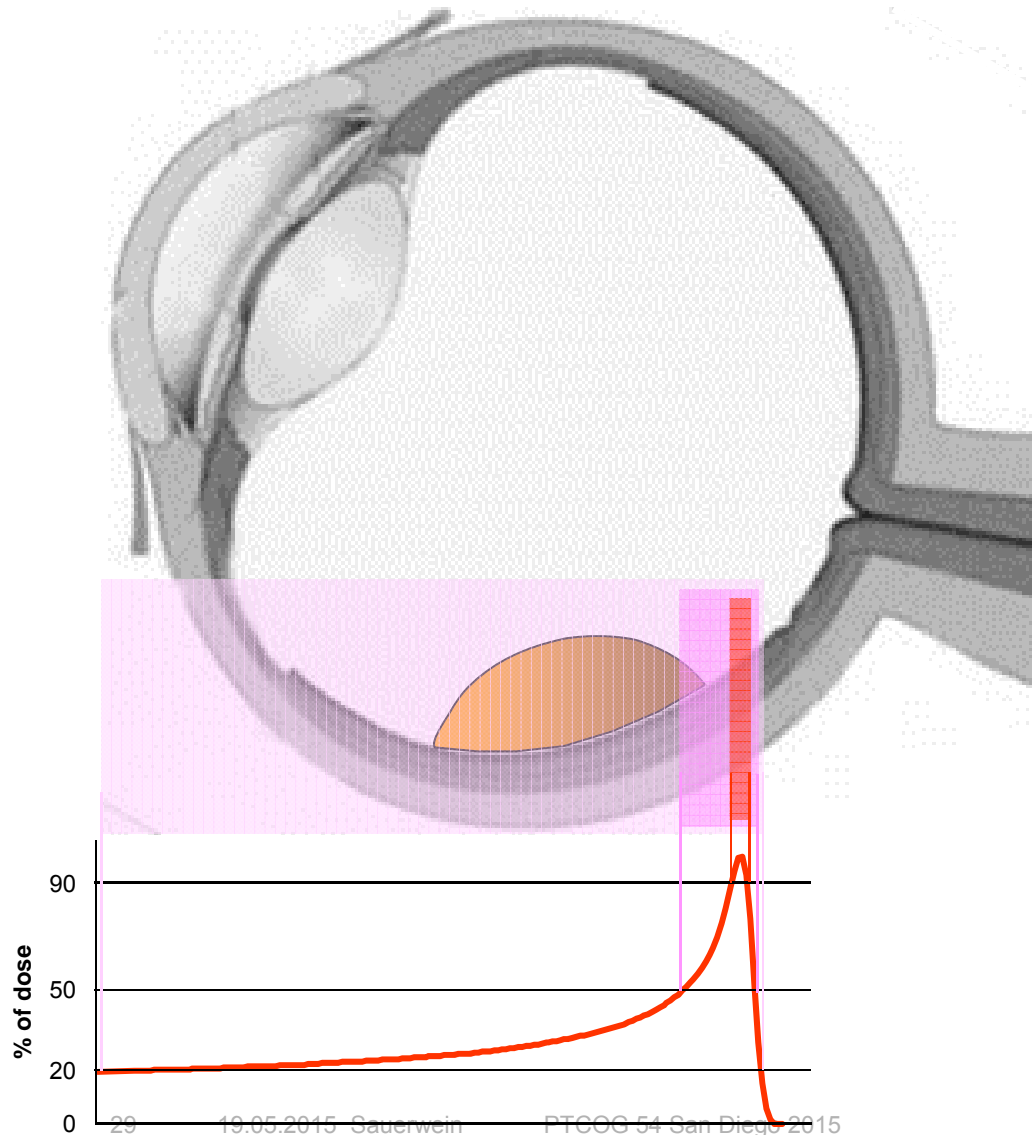


# Proton treatment of ocular tumors





# Depth dose distribution



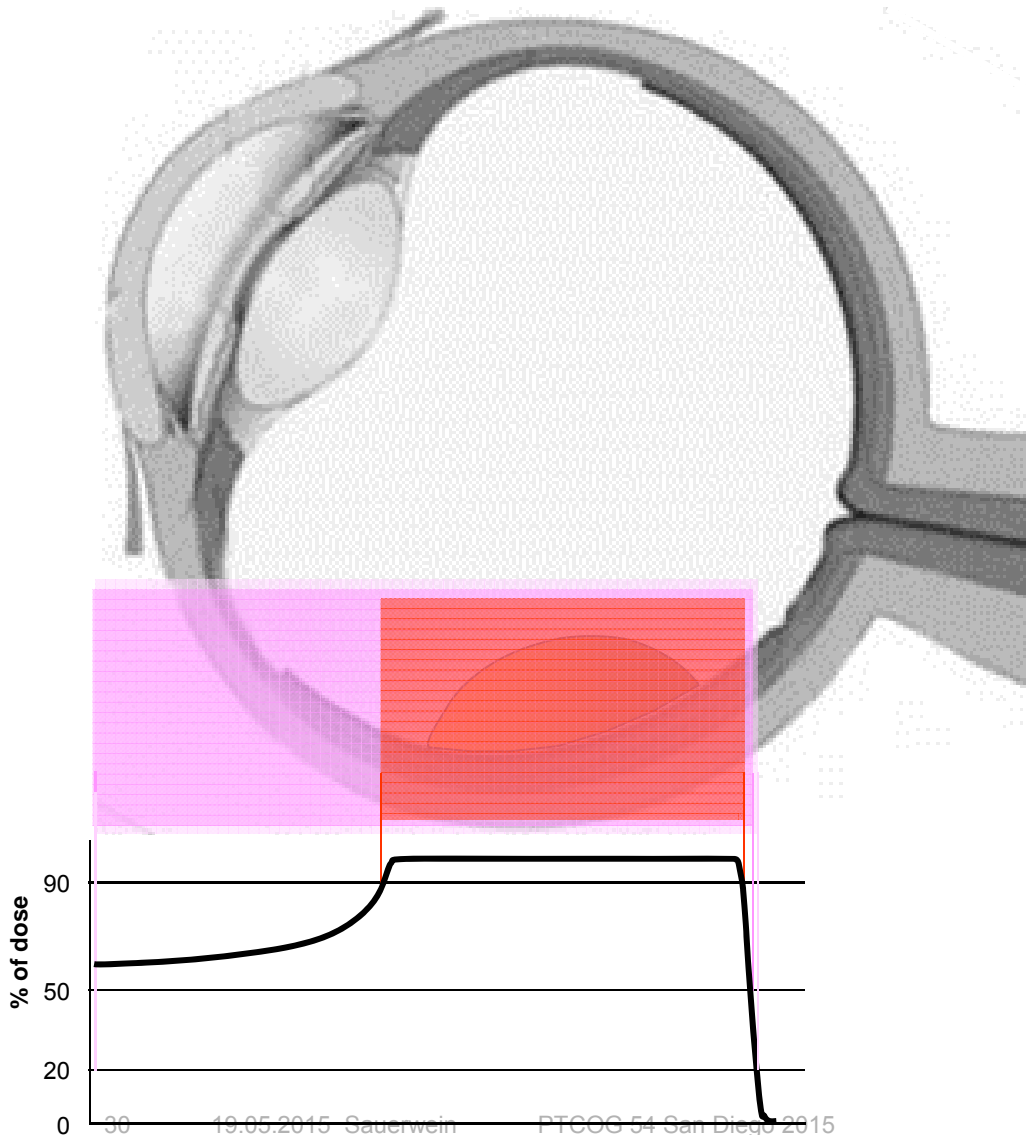
Dose distribution in the Bragg peak:

not convenient to treat a tumor.

The peak needs to be enlarged, (or spread-out, or modulated)



# Depth dose distribution



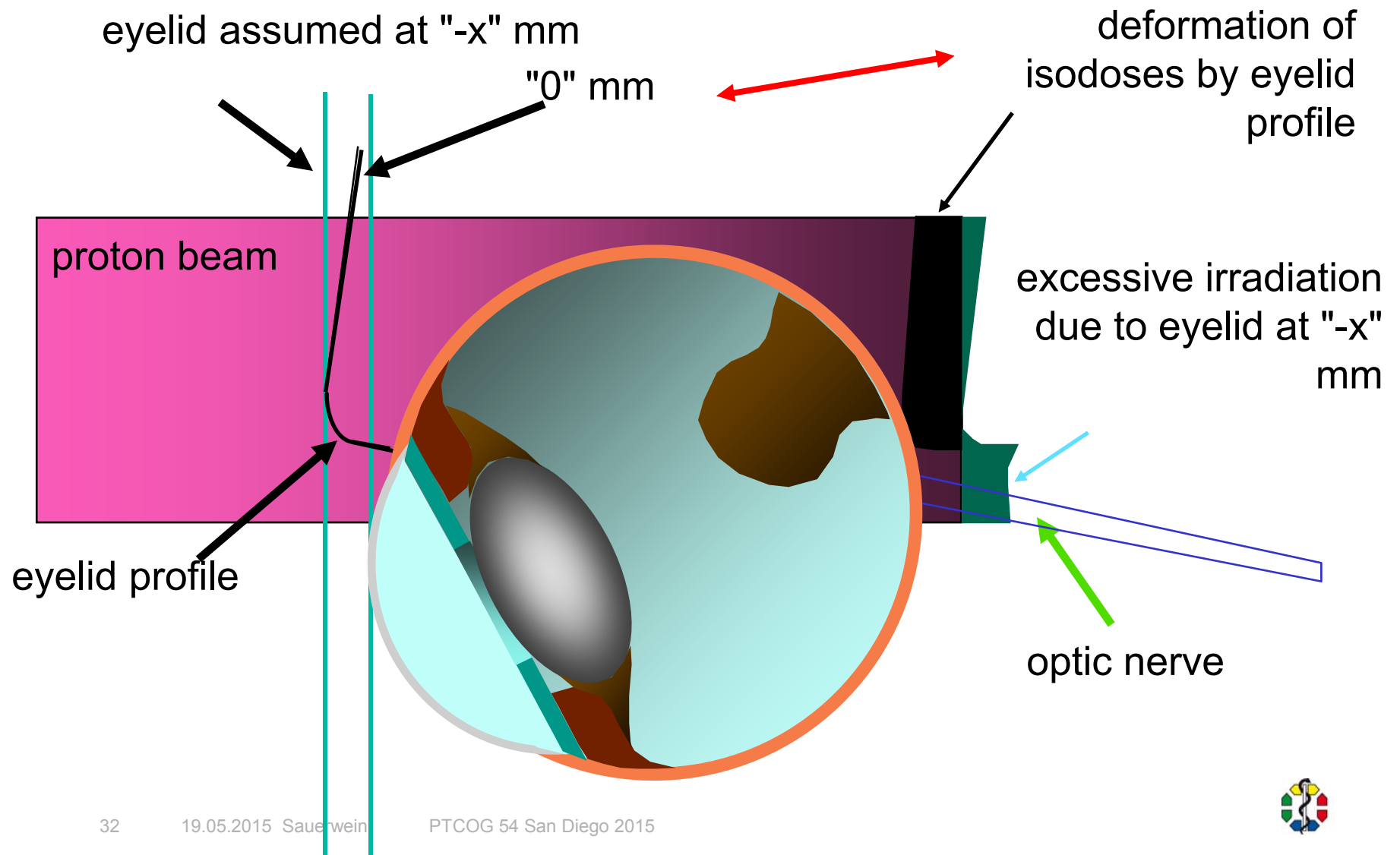
Dose distribution in the **spread-out** Bragg peak:

**now suitable** to treat a tumor with safety margins



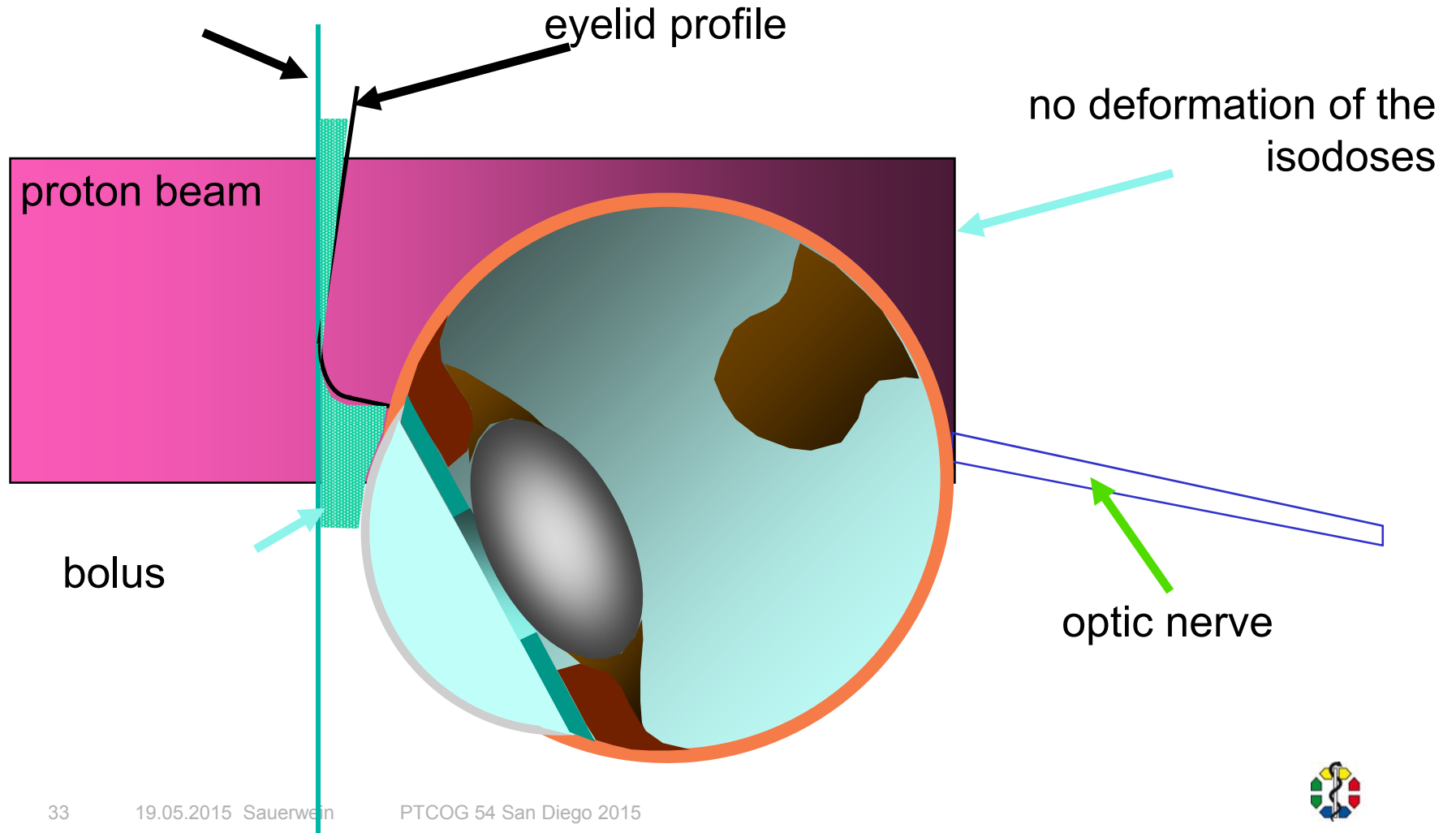


# Bolus

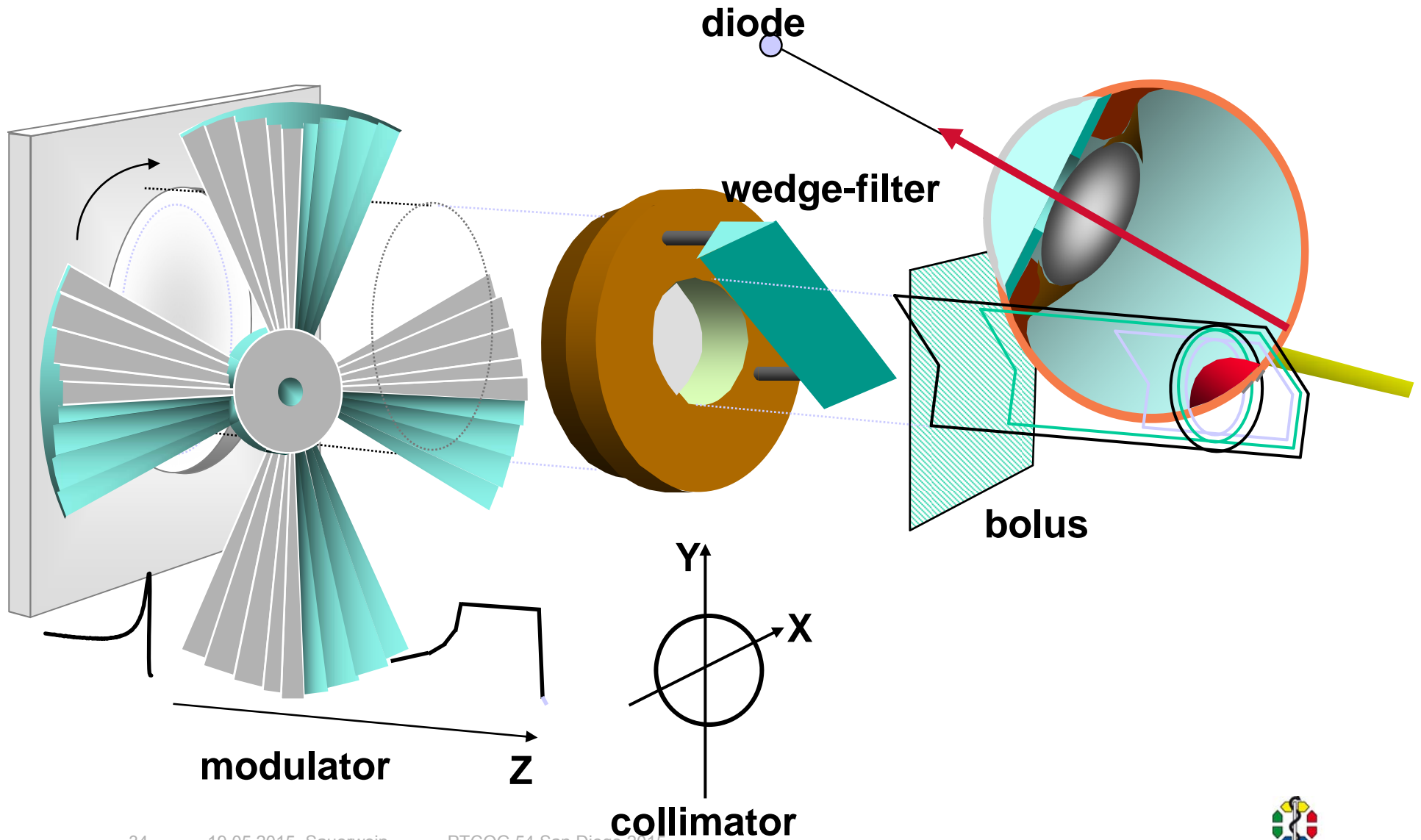


# Bolus

eyelid assumed at - "x" mm



# 3D Conformation of the proton beam

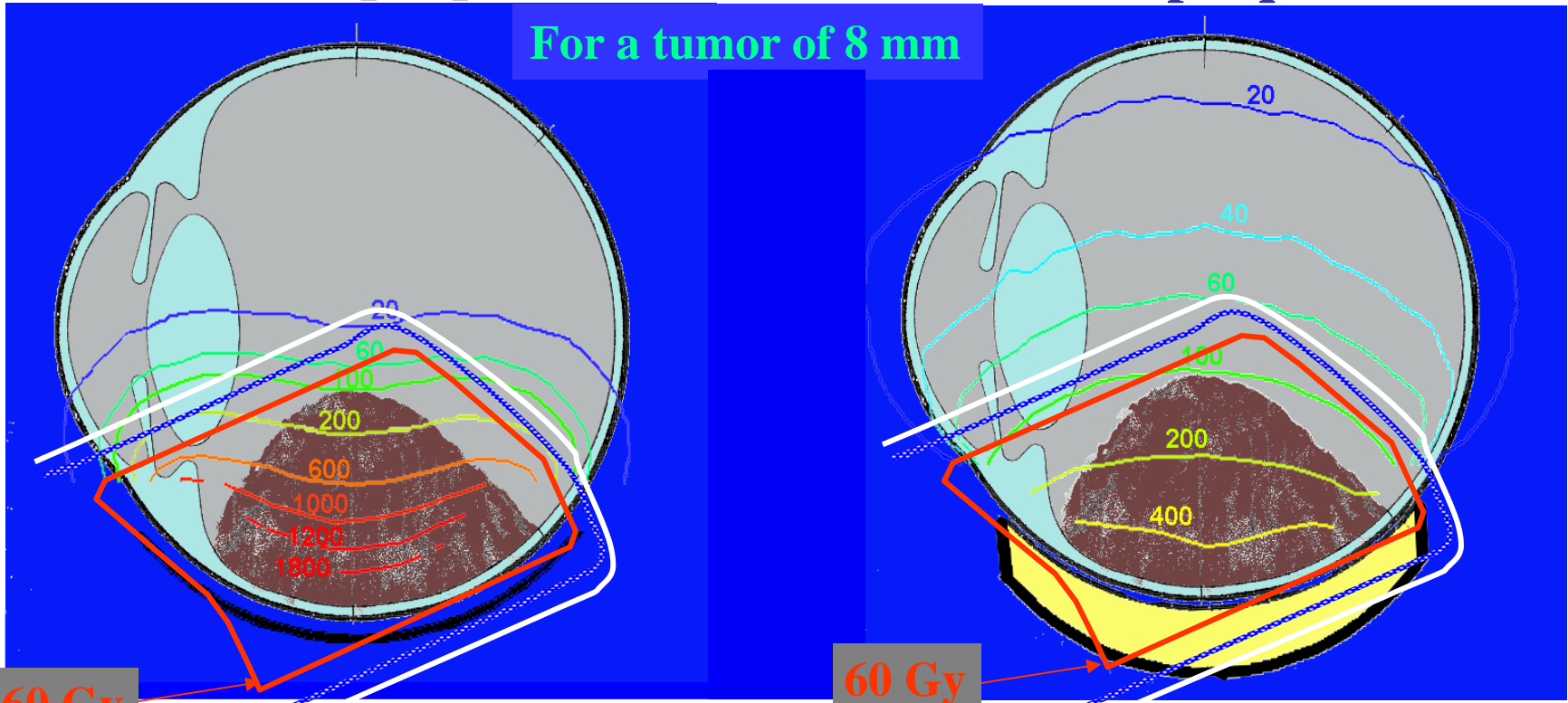


# dose distributions

Dose distribution of a  $^{106}\text{Ru}$  plaque

Dose distribution of a  $^{125}\text{I}$  plaque

For a tumor of 8 mm



60 Gy  
30 Gy  
12 Gy

60 Gy  
30 Gy  
12 Gy

Dose distribution of a proton beam

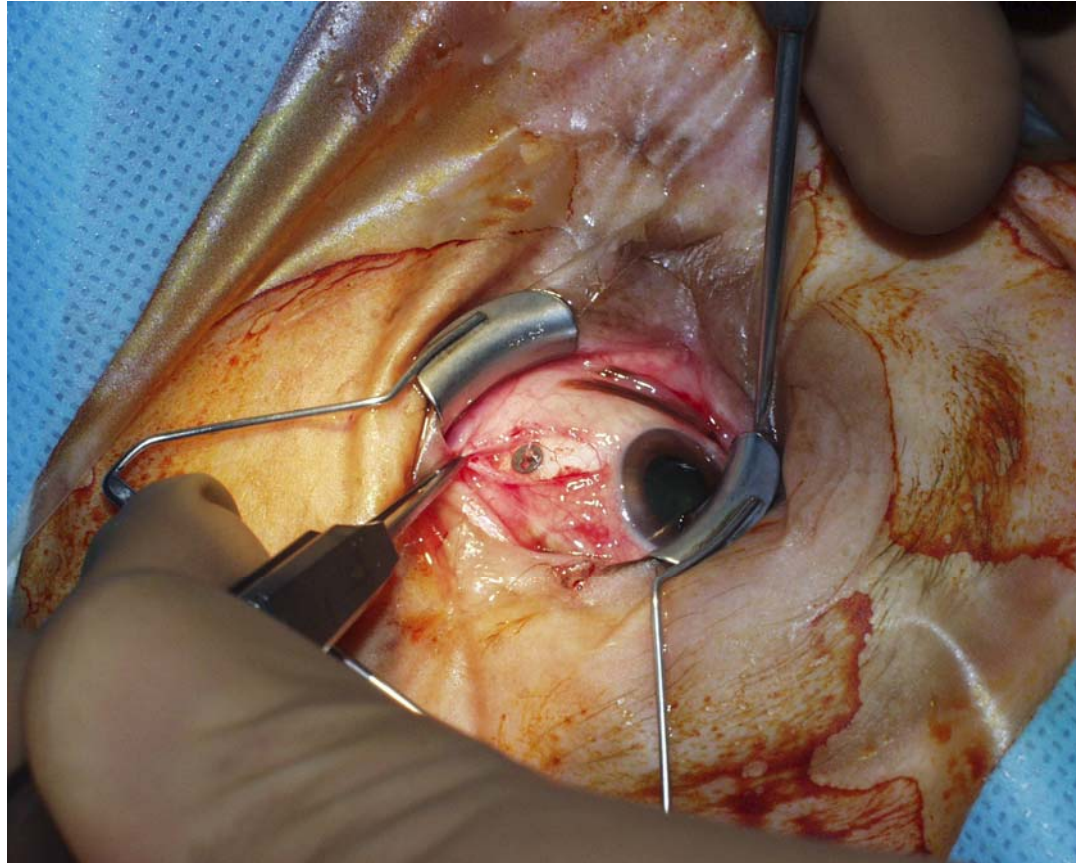








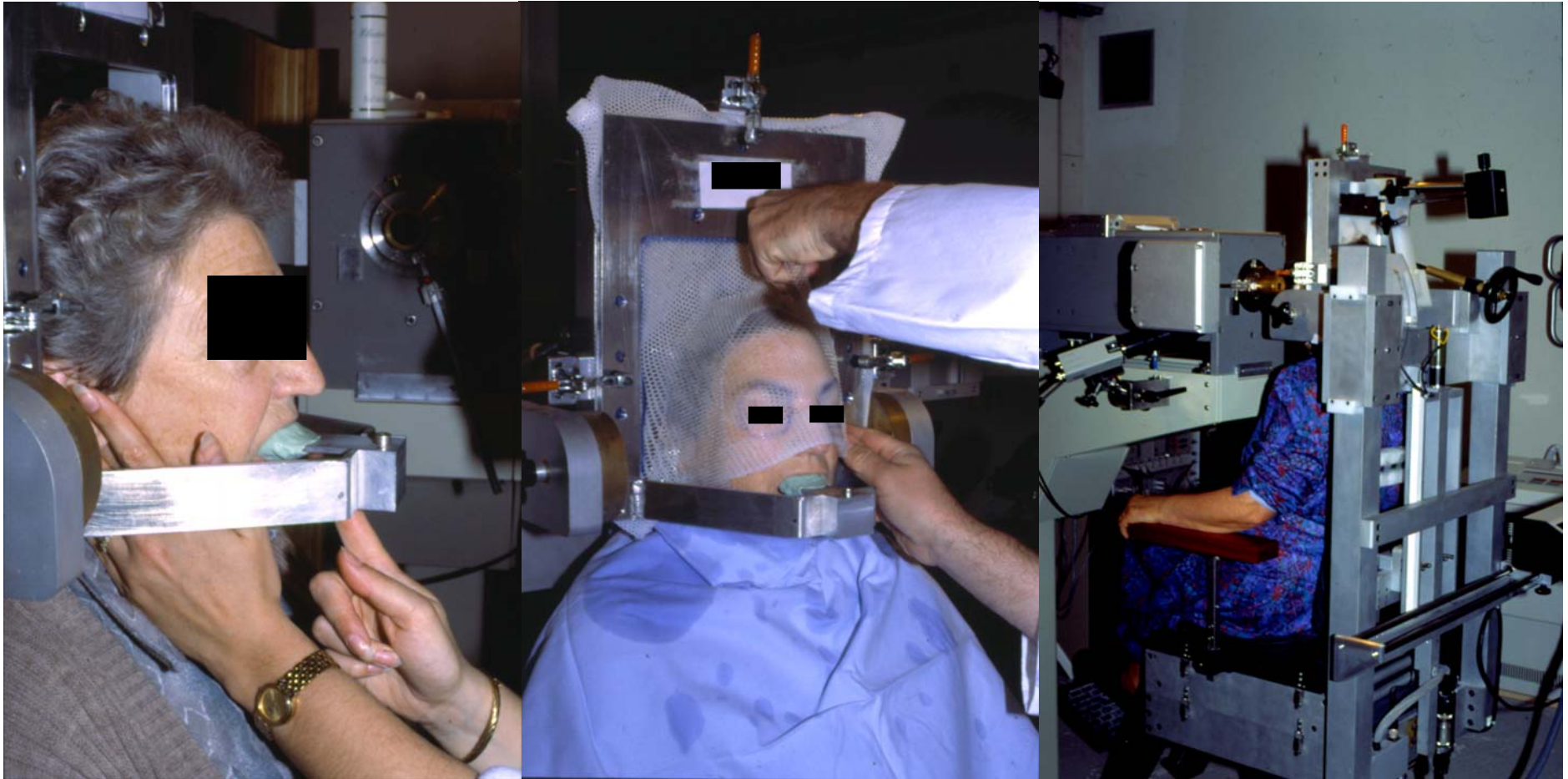
## Preparation of the patient: positioning of markers



CT scan after clipping always included



# Positioning devices for the patient

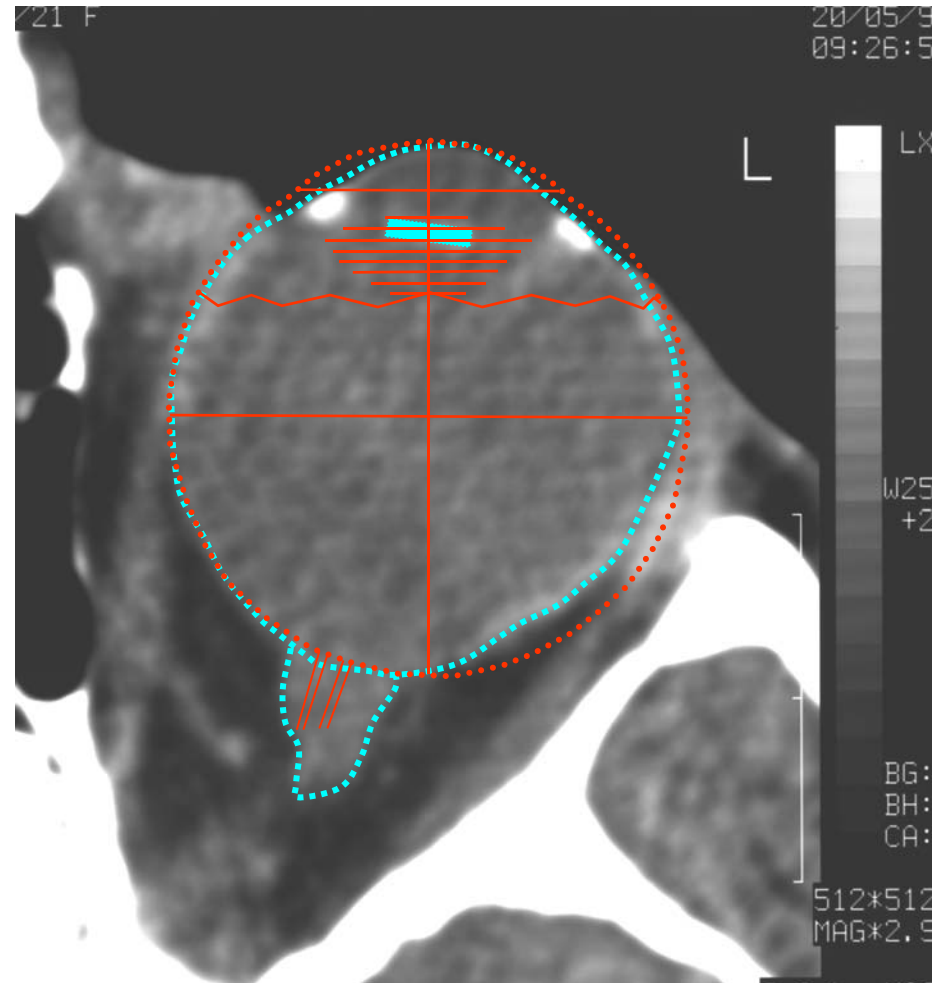


## Challenge for treatment planning:

Does the model represent the reality ?

All the calculations made on a relatively simple mathematical model of the eye.

The anatomy may differ from the model. To be accurate, the validity of the model has to be checked by CT and the model to be **modified** if necessary.

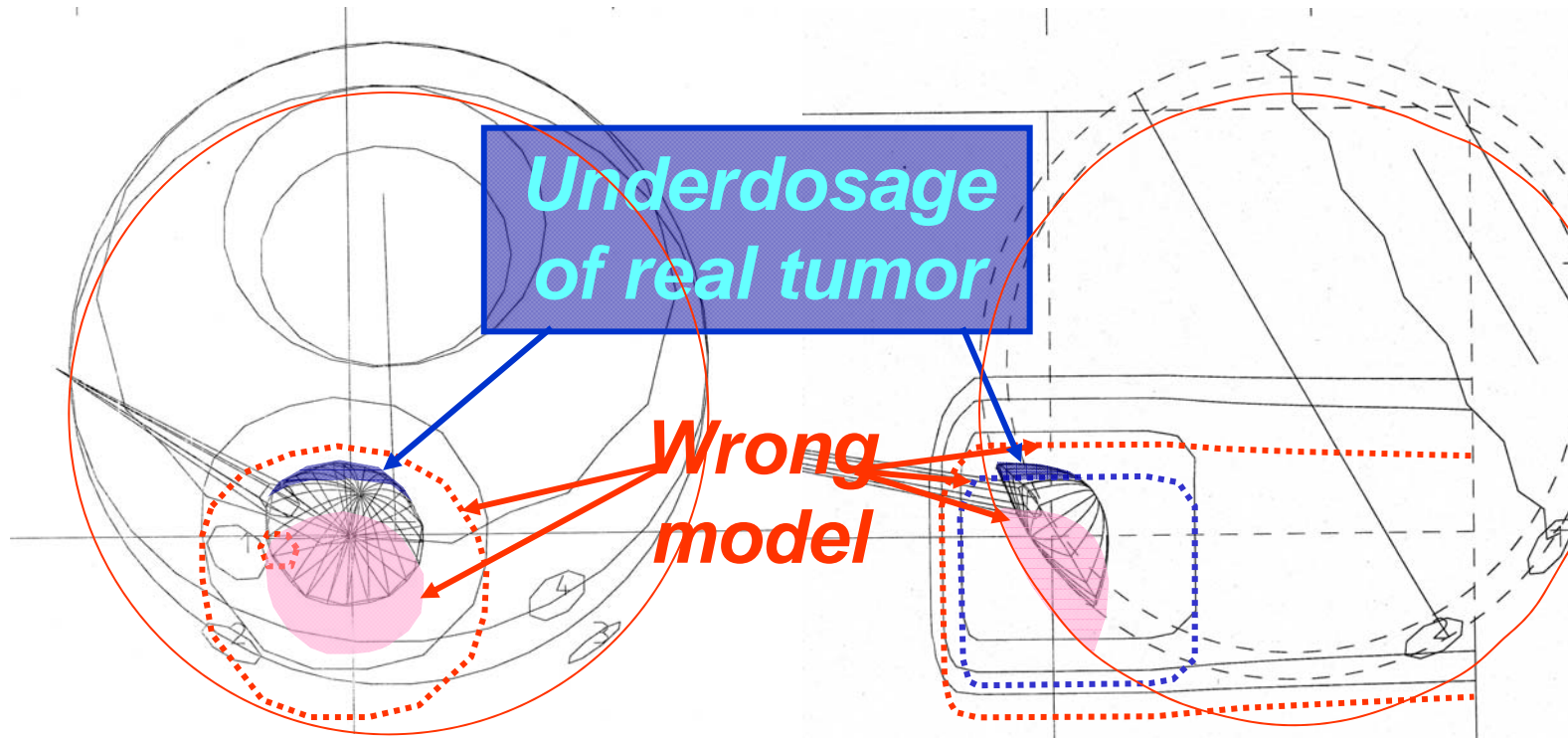


CT-scan

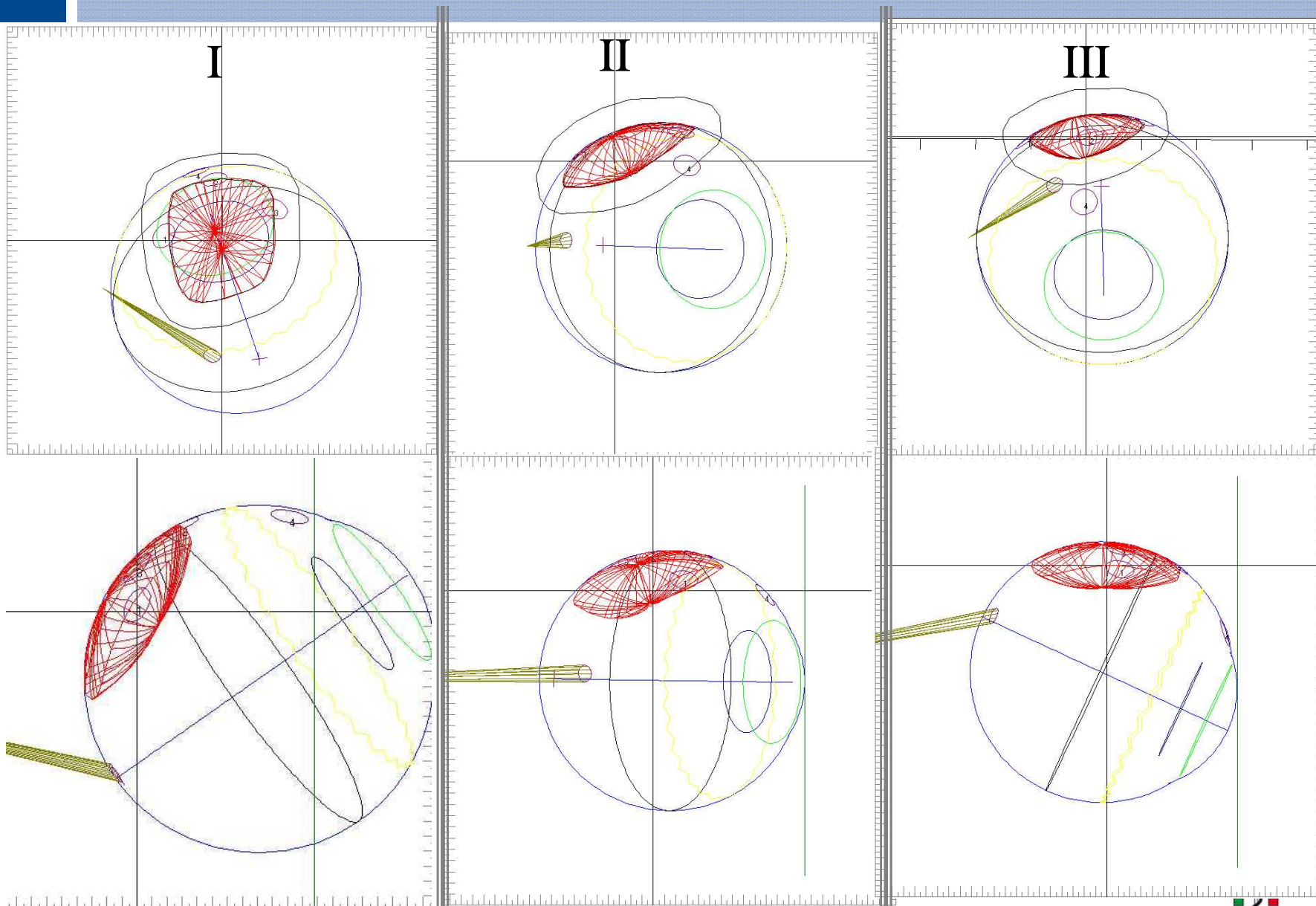




# If the model is not accurate, you will not hit the target

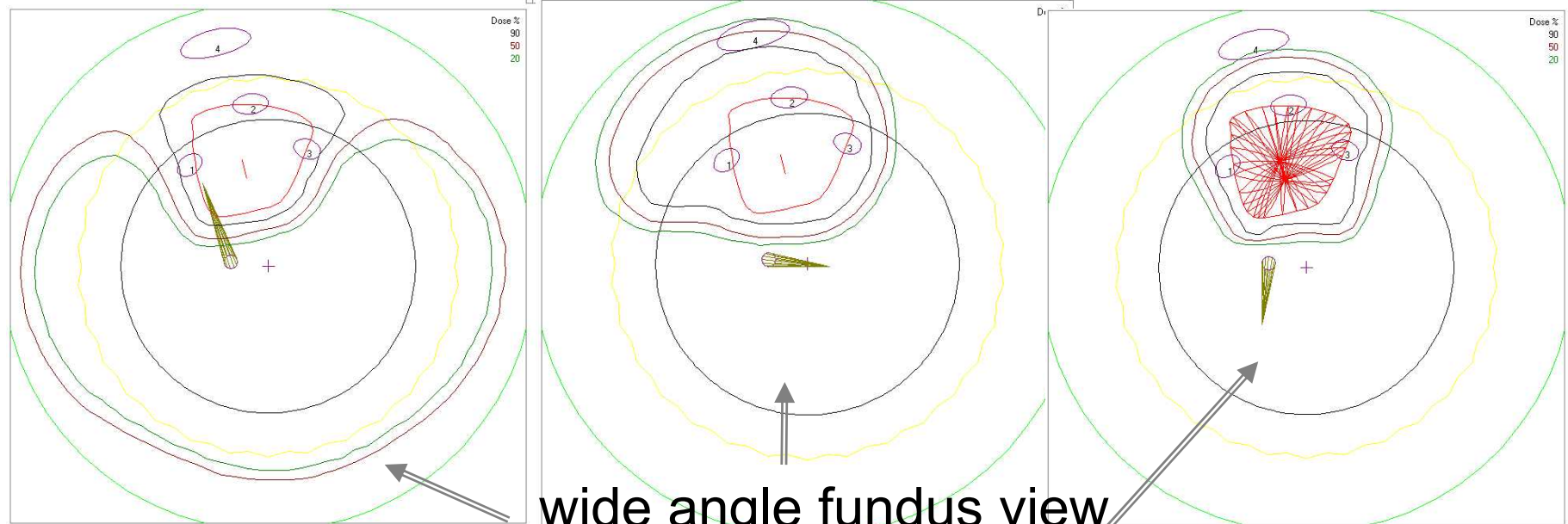
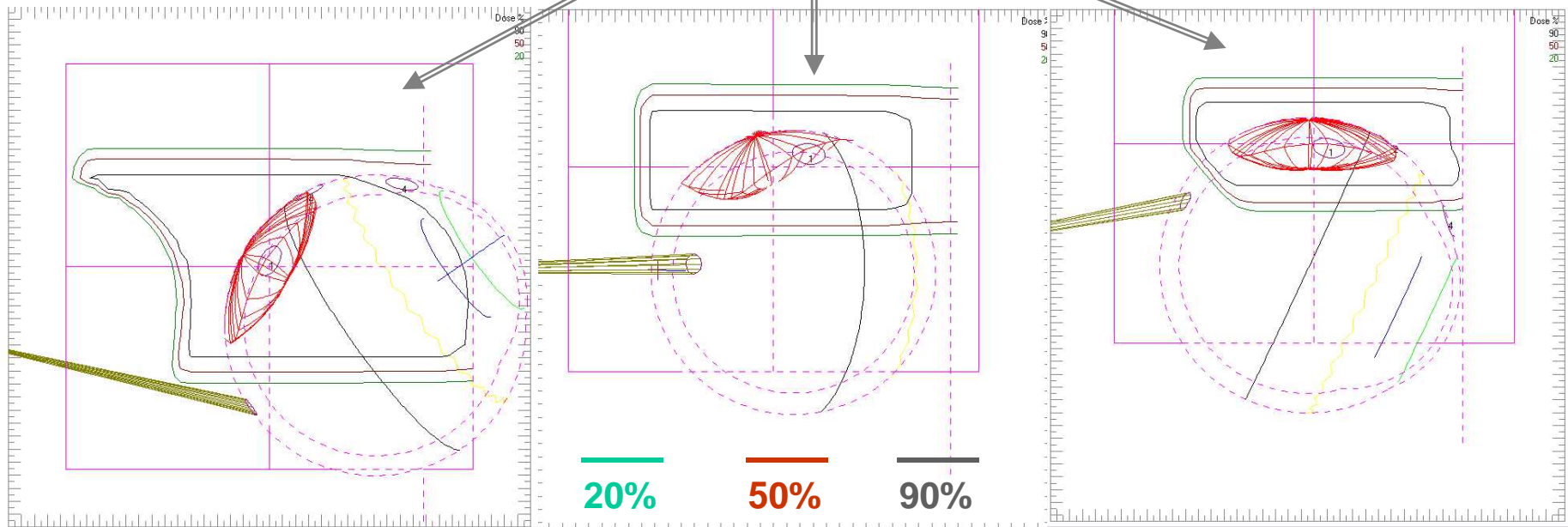


# Positioning: same tumor, 3 different positions



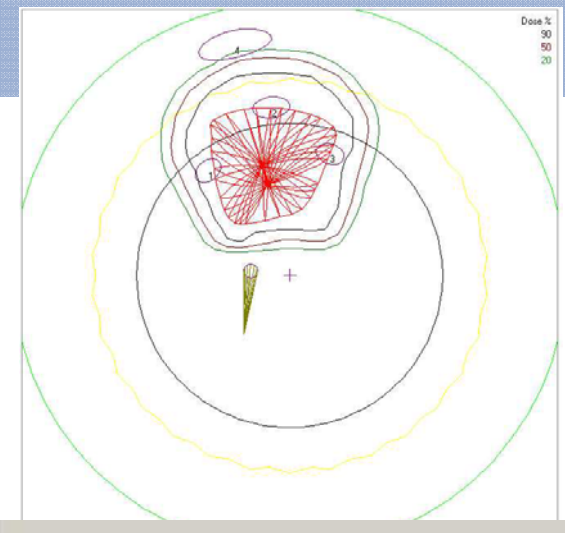
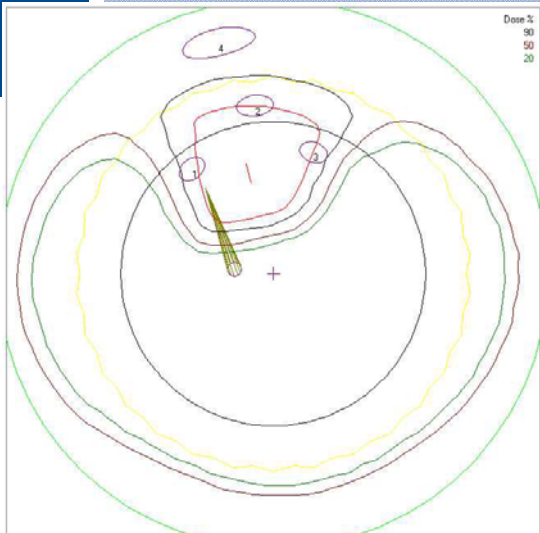
# Dose distributions for the three different positions

lateral view



wide angle fundus view



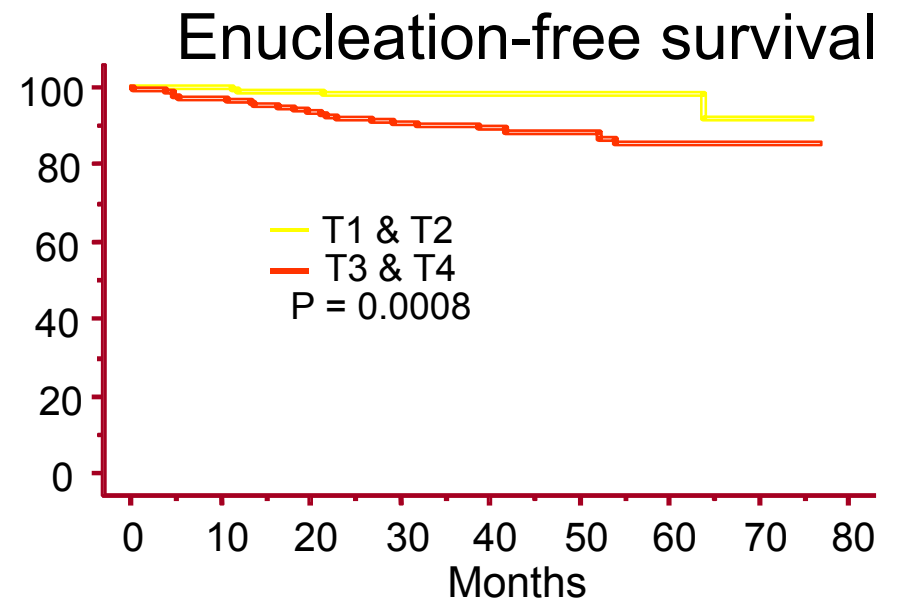
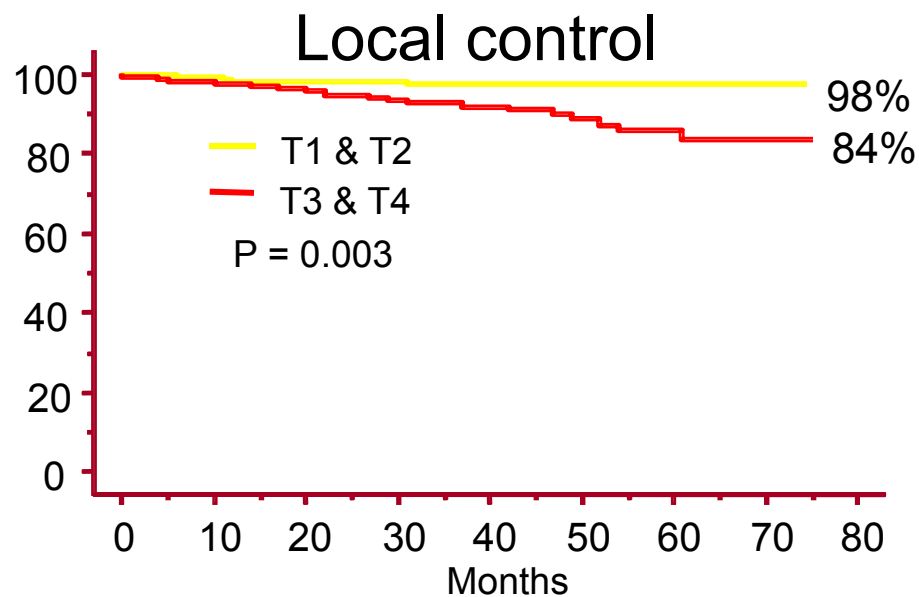
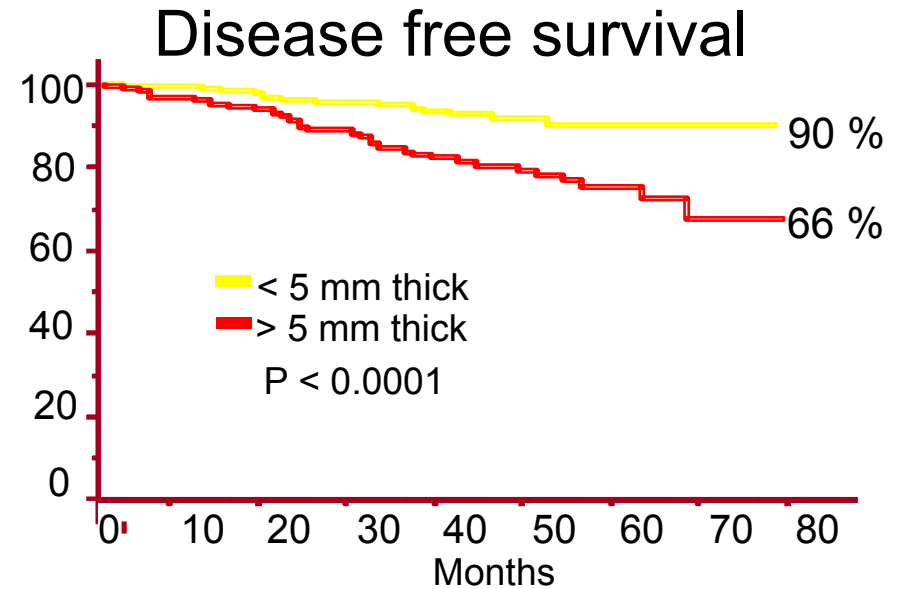
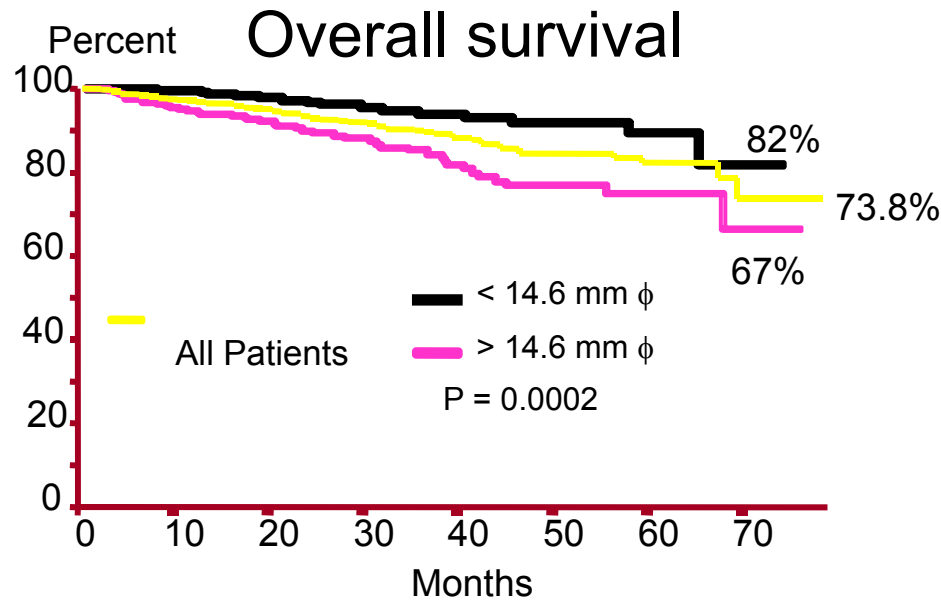


	20%	50%	90%	
Retina	32	27	22	% area
Surface Of The Globe	40	35	13	% area
Volume Of The Globe	3.9	3.4	2.2	cc
Lens Volume	100	100	75	% vol
Lens Periphery	100	100	37	%
Ciliary Body	95	88	11	% vol
Optic Disc	0	0	0	% area
Macula	0	0	0	% vol
Length Of Optic Nerve	0.1	0.0	0.0	mm
Surface Of The Tumor	100	100	100	% area
Upper Eyelid Rim				
Lower Eyelid Rim				

	20%	50%	90%	
Retina	29	26	22	% area
Surface Of The Globe	26	23	19	% area
Volume Of The Globe	1.4	1.2	0.9	cc
Lens Volume	0	0	0	% vol.
Lens Periphery	0	0	0	%
Ciliary Body	12	7	2	% vol.
Optic Disc	0	0	0	% area
Macula	0	0	0	% vol.
Length Of Optic Nerve	0.0	0.0	0.0	mm
Surface Of The Tumor	100	100	100	% area
Upper Eyelid Rim				
Lower Eyelid Rim				

	20%	50%	90%	
Retina	25	22	18	% area
Surface Of The Globe	19	17	14	% area
Volume Of The Globe	1.1	0.9	0.6	cc
Lens Volume	0	0	0	% vol.
Lens Periphery	0	0	0	%
Ciliary Body	1	0	0	% vol.
Optic Disc	0	0	0	% area
Macula	0	0	0	% vol.
Length Of Optic Nerve	0.0	0.0	0.0	mm
Surface Of The Tumor	100	100	100	% area
Upper Eyelid Rim				
Lower Eyelid Rim				

# Outcome of Uveal Melanoma treated in Nice (n= 2500)



## Tumors of the conjunctiva:

„orphan diseases“

non-Hodgkin lymphoma

malignant melanoma

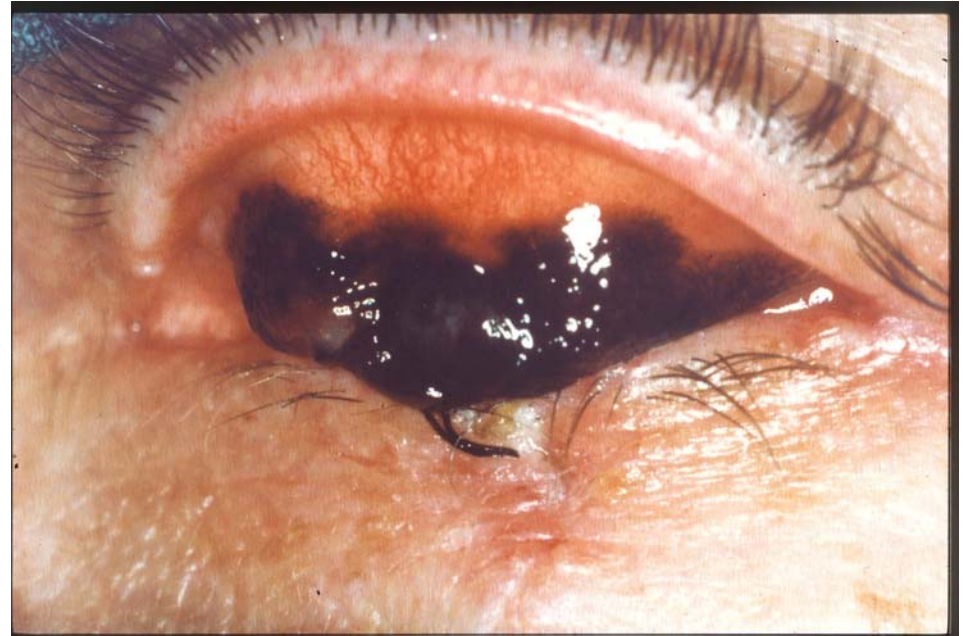
squamous cell carcinoma

extremely rare lesions:

adeno-squamous carcinoma

rhabdomyosarcoma

others...

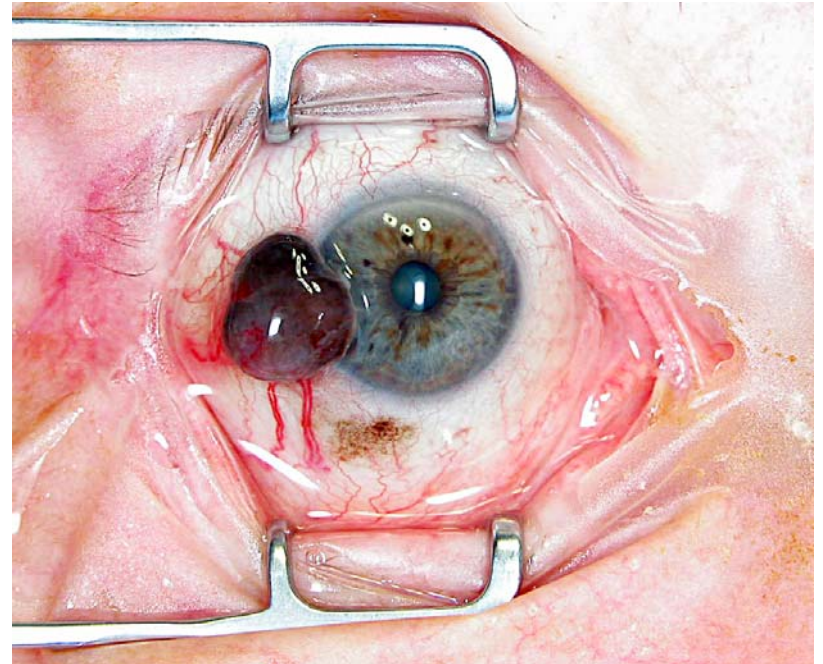


## Complex target volume

Complex geometry

The problem of the fornix

The problem of the depth



Organs at risks in the **neighborhood**

Target volume is also **organ at risk**





# Why protons?

ballistic precision of the proton beam

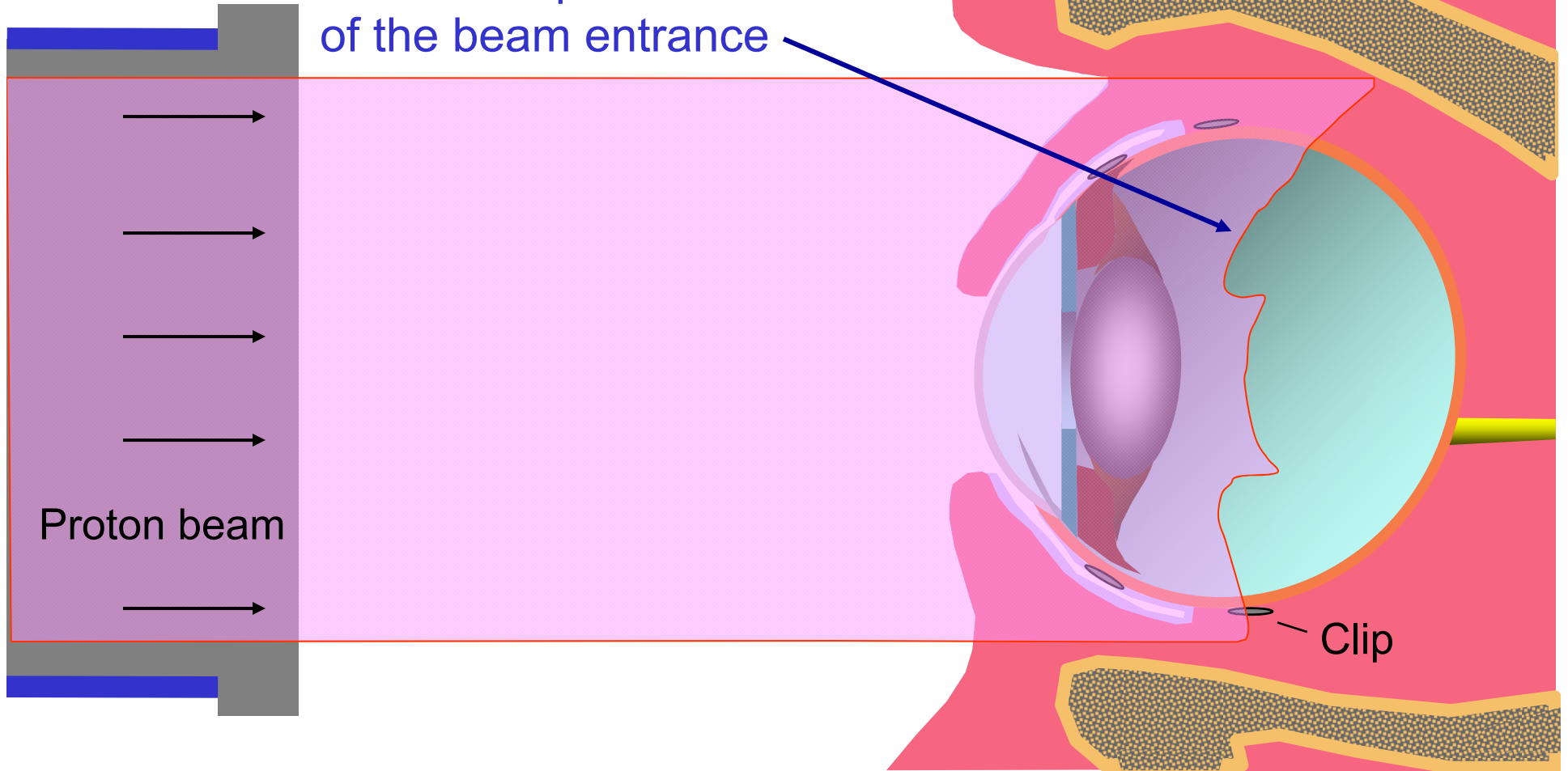
- homogeneous irradiation of a complex treatment volume (necessity to treat large volume of bulbar and tarsal conjunctiva while sparing the internal structures in the eye)
- steep dose gradients at the edges and depth: protection of healthy structures





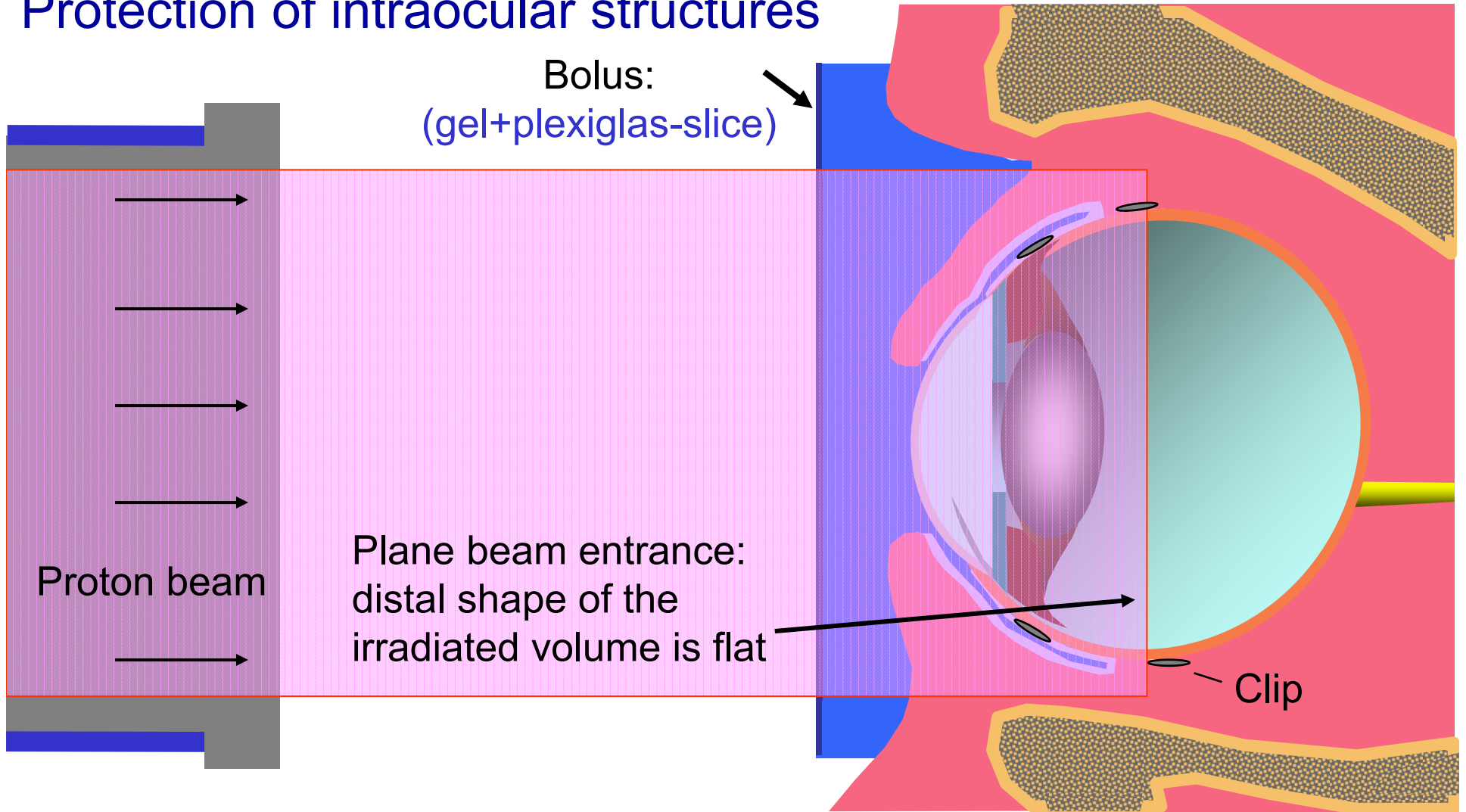
# Proton irradiation of conjunctival tumors

distal shape of the irradiated volume: reproduces the relief of the beam entrance

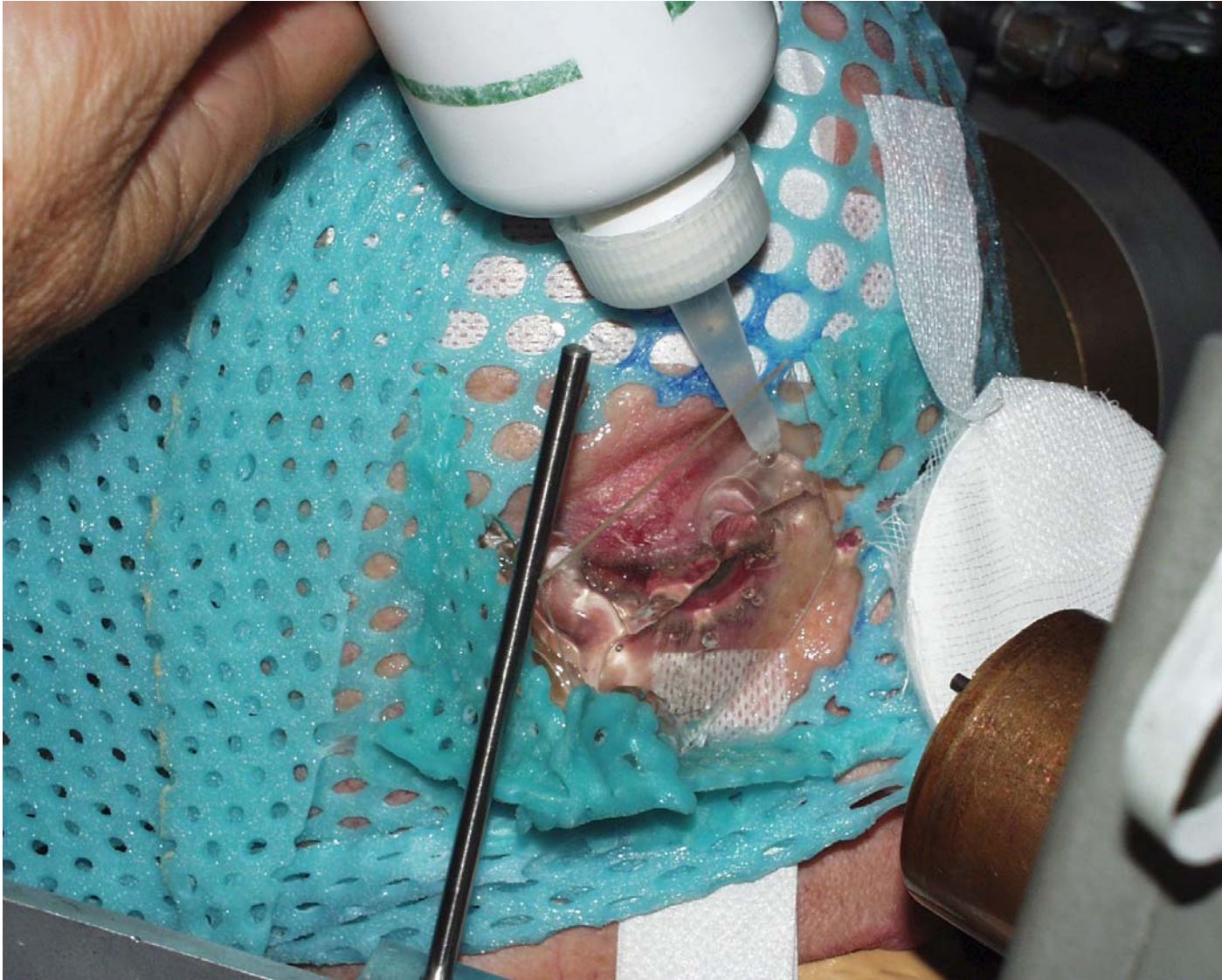


# Treatment technique

## Protection of intraocular structures

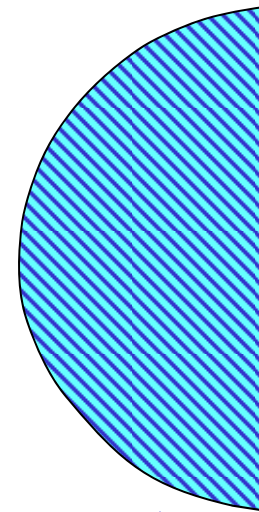
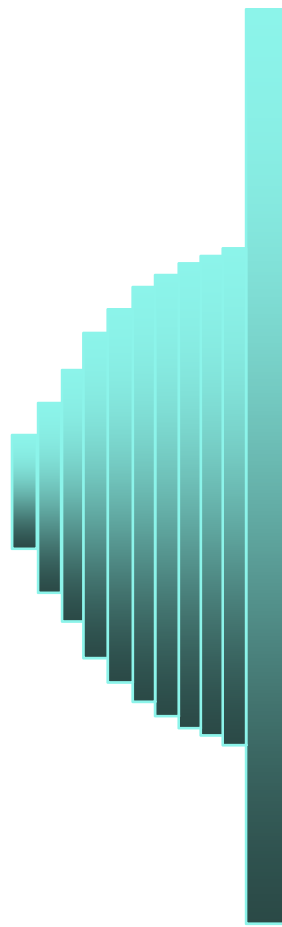


## Treatment technique: bolus



## Treatment technique

Semi-hemispherical plexiglas-compensator reduces the proton energy and modulates their range to protect healthy structures

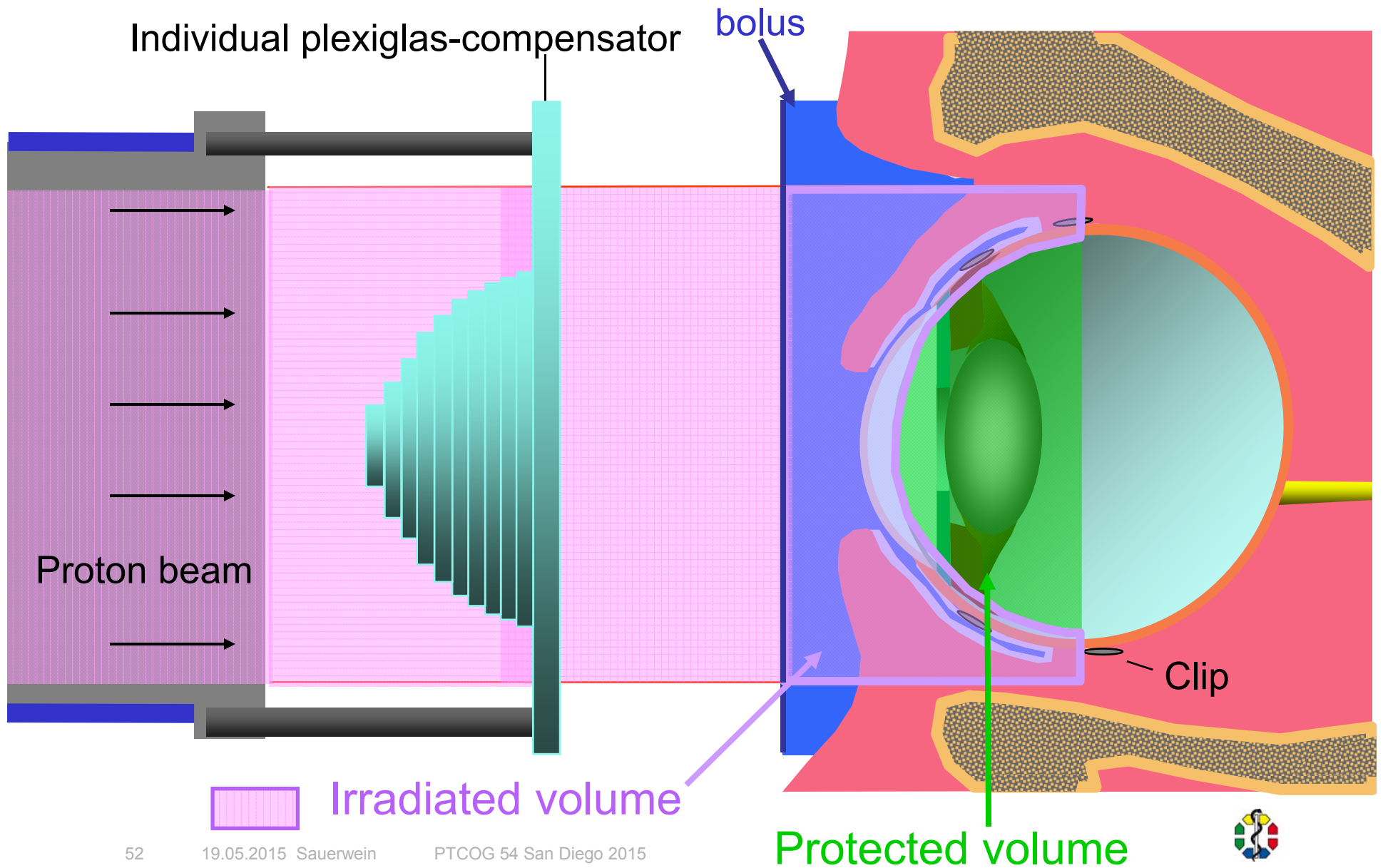


shielded volumen



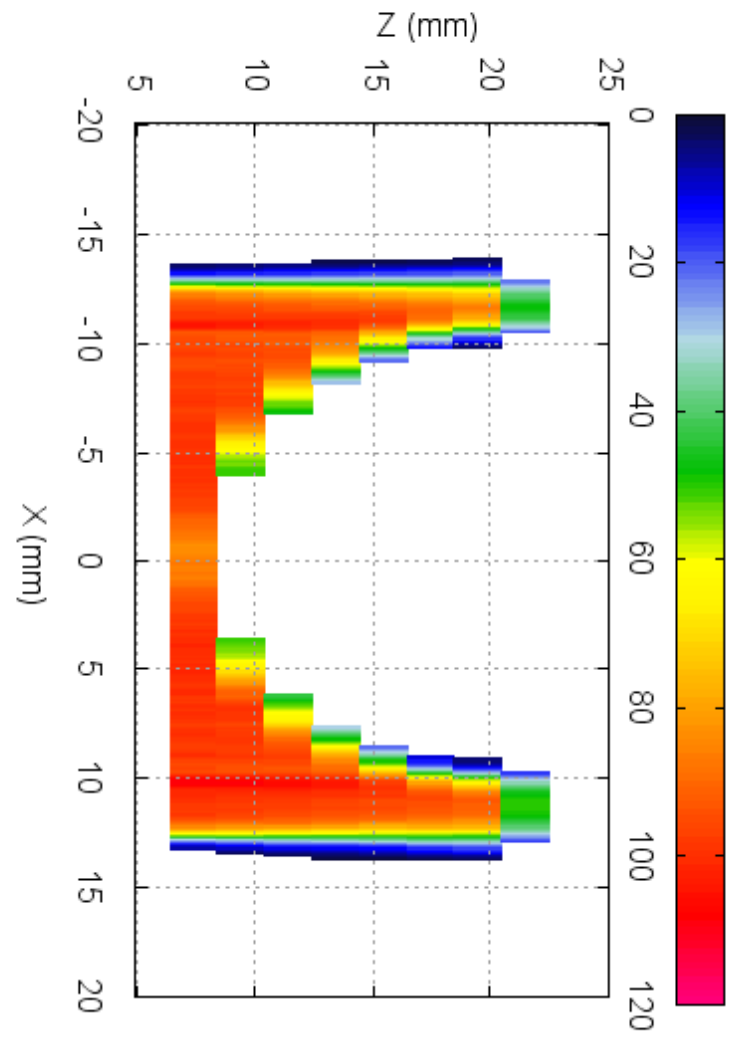


# Treatment technique



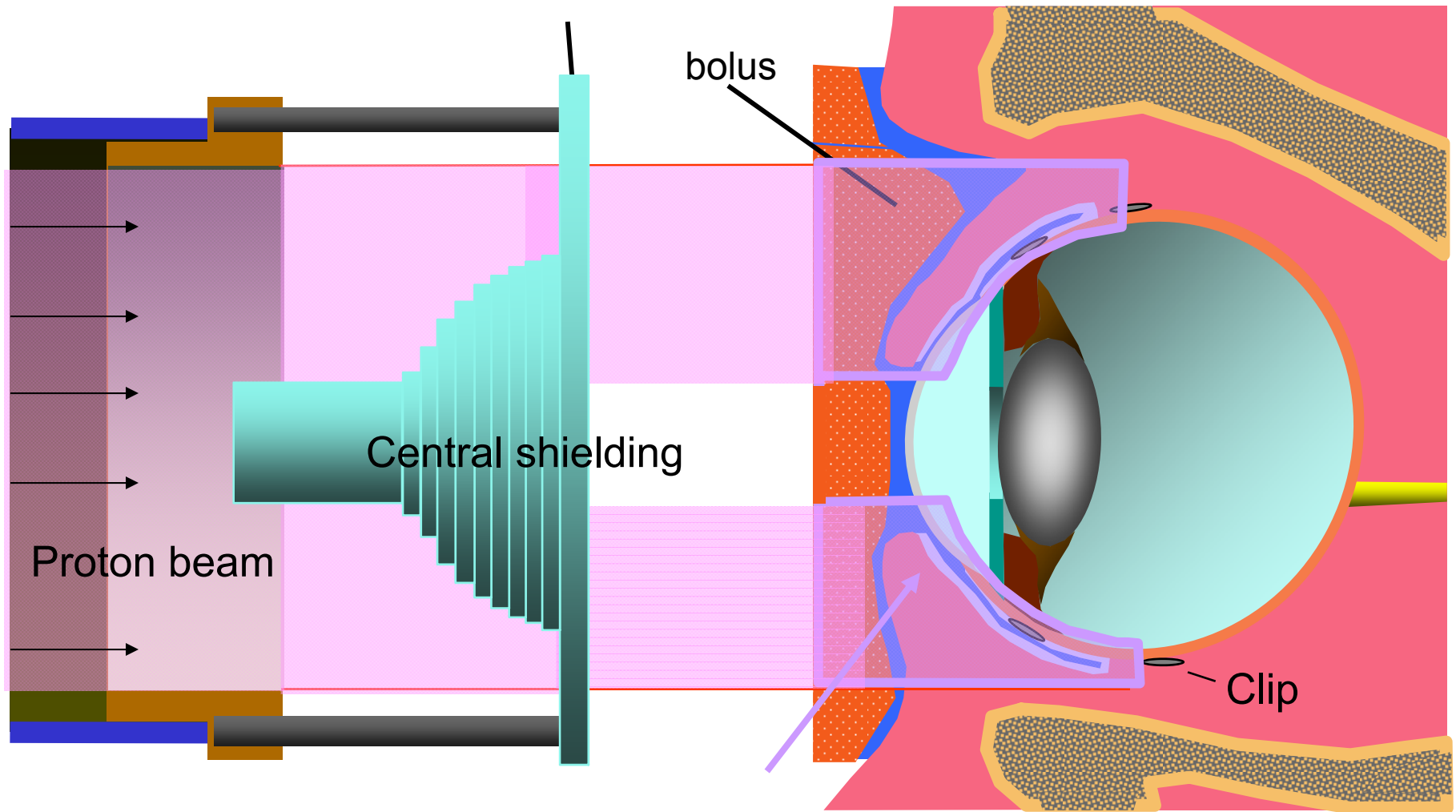


# Dose distribution



# Treatment technique

Individual plexiglas-compensator









## Mini-SMD-LEDs

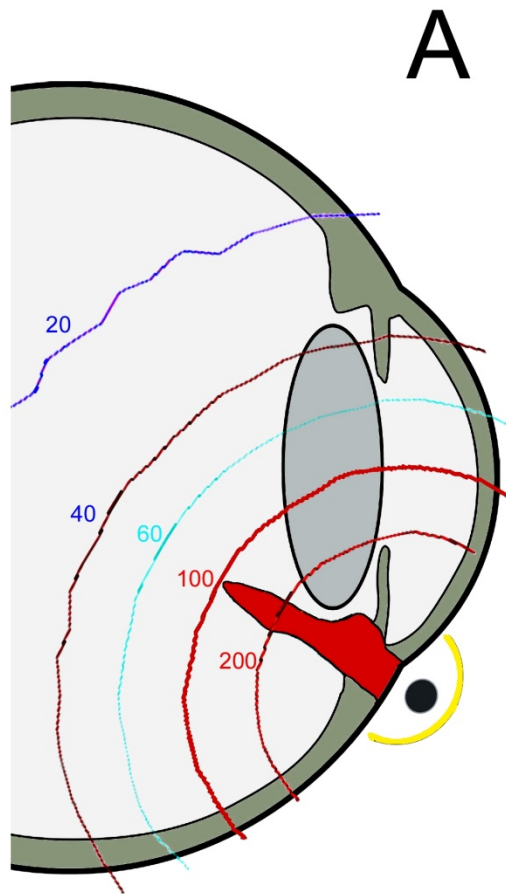
Integrated in the plaque

Offers the possibility to control the position of the plaque during treatment

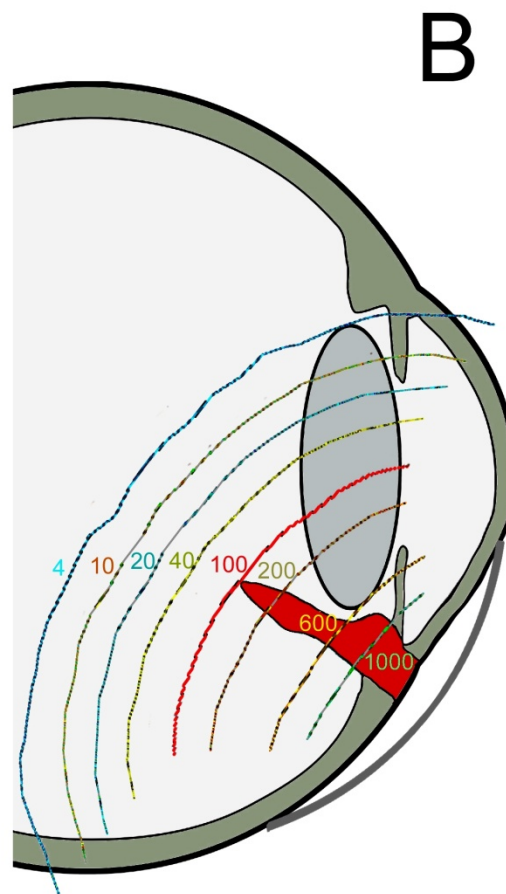




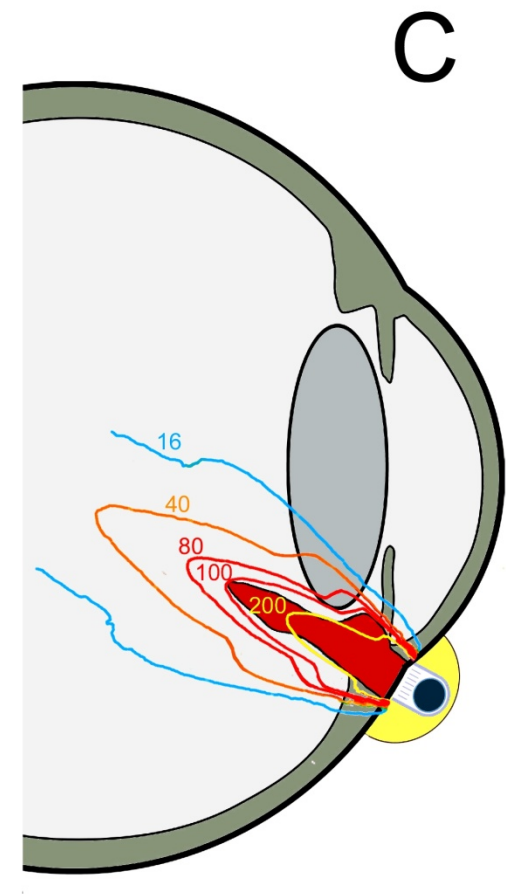
# Recent developments: highly precise plaques (HPS)



A –  $^{125}\text{I}$ -Plaque



B –  $^{106}\text{Ru}$ -Plaque CCX



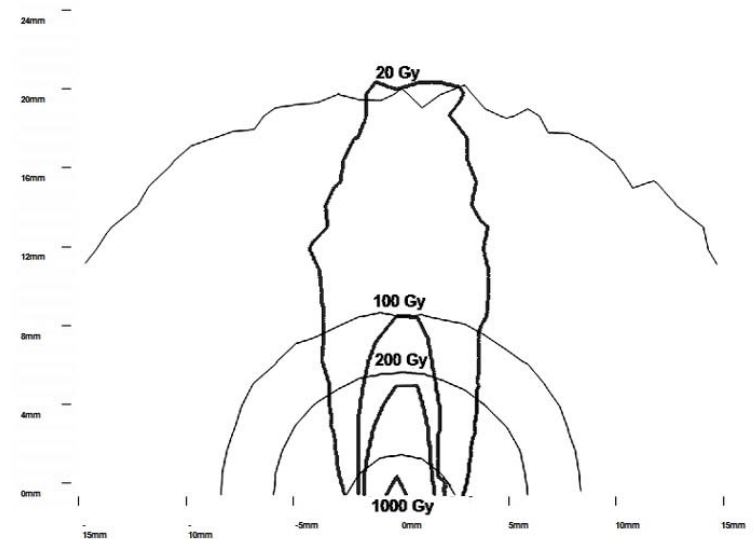
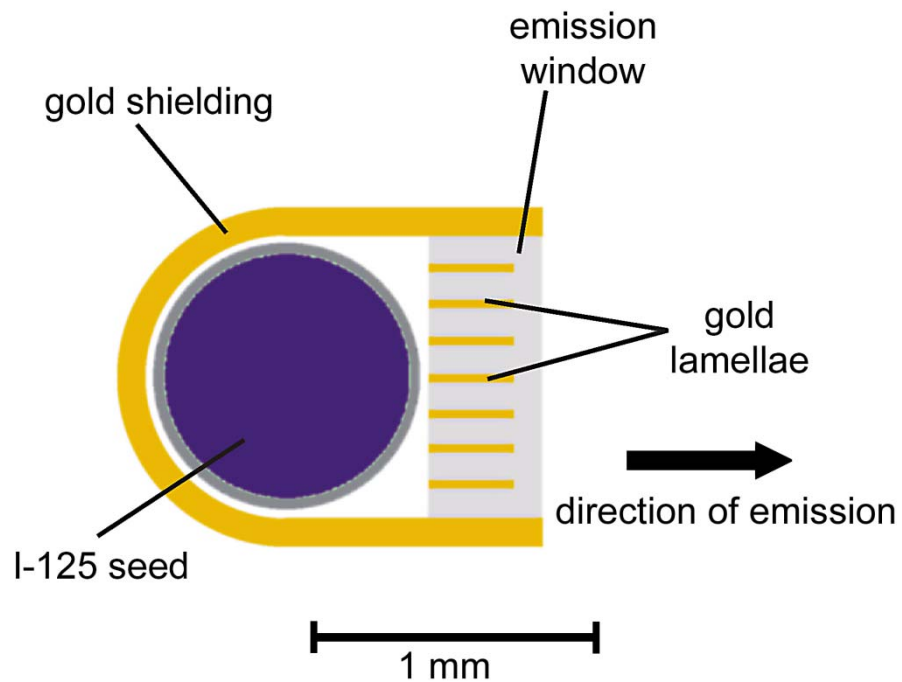
C –  $^{125}\text{I}$ -HPS-Plaque



# Recent developments: highly precise plaques (HPS)

The principle:

Microcollimation of single seeds



# The future of proton therapy for eye tumors?



Dedicated machine  
65 MeV  
EYEPlan

Pulsed beam  
Pencil beam scanning  
Image based treatment planning  
62-230 MeV

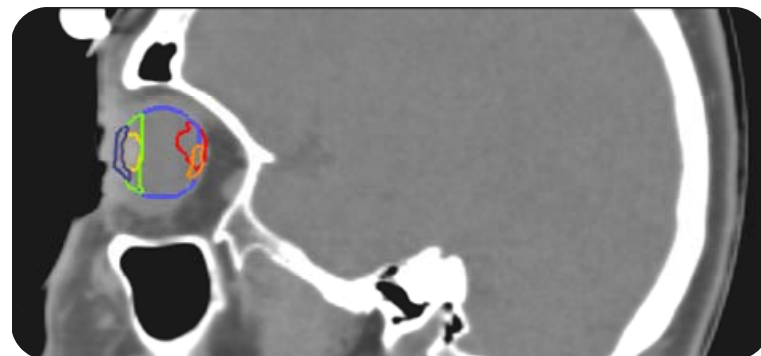


# High energy beams and PBS for small, superficial tumors

Collaboration

CNAO

**CAL** Nice  
Centre Antoine-Lacassagne  
Centre Régional de Lutte contre le Cancer



“work in progress”

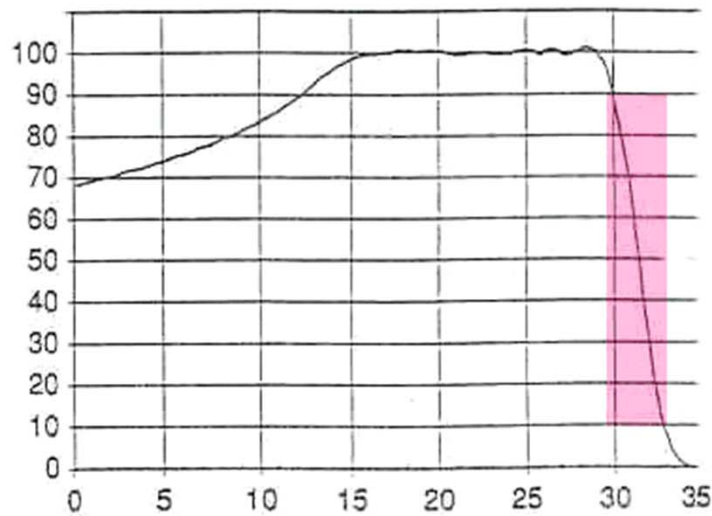
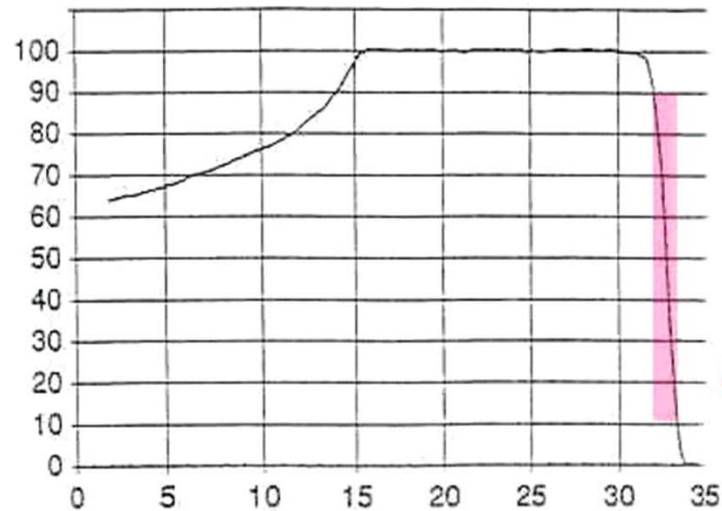


R. Via et al.:  
Patient Setup and  
Immobilization





# Cyclotrons with continuous beams



Protons  
≠  
Protons





# Dedicated beam vs. degraded high intensity beam

## 65 MeV without degrader

## 200 MeV degraded

of Dmax	20%	50%	90%	20%	50%	90%
Surface globe [%]	20	13	8	28	25	13
Volume globe [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	1.9	1.5	1.0	2.6	2.2	1.5
Volume vitreous [%]	57	37	25	85	61	54
Ciliary body [%]	52	46	36	59	55	45
Cornea [%]	55	47	36	72	64	51

Melanoma of the iris, identical target volume



# How to select the optimal radiation technique?

The possibility of a choice between different treatment modalities has not been sufficiently investigated.

Published literature does not give any advice to answer the question:

what is the best solution for an individual patient



# Physical aspects

Type of applicator/ irradiation	$^{106}\text{Ru}$	applicator mixed $^{106}\text{Ru}/^{125}\text{I}$	$^{125}\text{I}$	protons
Maximal tumor thickness allowing an adequate dose distribution	5-7mm (depending from applicator)	6-10 mm (important influence of the activity)	10-15 mm (depending from applicator)	Homogeneous dose distribution always possible
Depth dose distribution behind the target volume (% of dose at the apex)	1 mm: ca. 60% 5 mm: ca. 10%	ca. 75 % ca. 10 %	ca. 80-90% ca. 30-50%	ca. 50% 0
Dose to normal tissues prior the target volume (% of dose at the apex)	0	0	0	ca 30-60%
Lateral dose distribution (% of dose at the apex)	1 mm: ca. 20% 5 mm: ca. 3%	ca. 30-50 % ca. 5-10 %	ca. 20-60% ca. 5-25%	ca. 50% 0



# Retinoblastoma

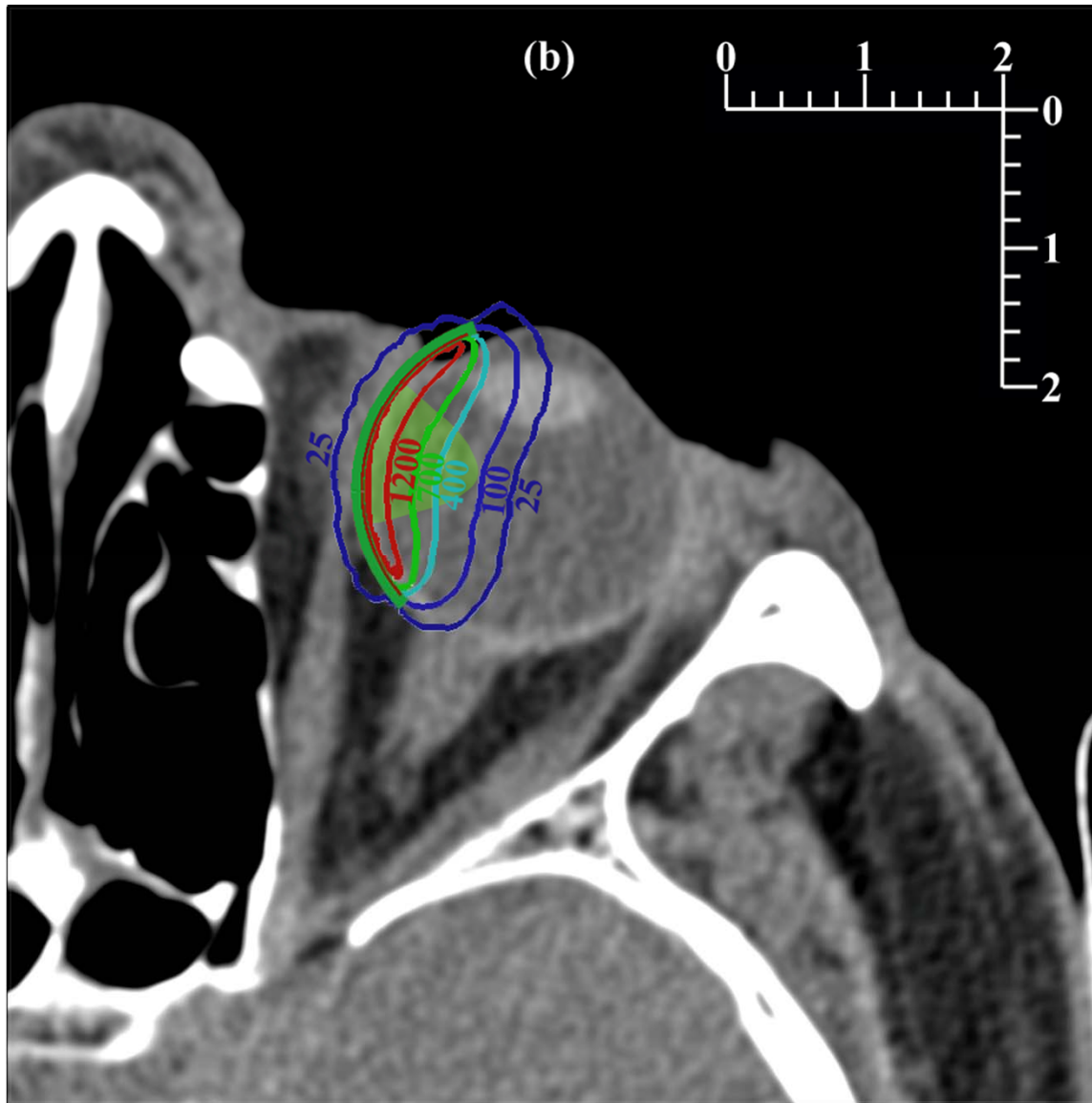
## brachytherapy <sup>106</sup>Ru vs. <sup>125</sup>I

	Essen (2005)	Shields et al (2001)
Treatment period	1979 - 2005	1976 - 1999
Treated tumors	175 ( <sup>106</sup> Ru)	178 ( <sup>125</sup> I)
Mean age [months]	23 (0.2 – 150)	12 (1 – 96)
Tumour diameter [mm]	7.5 ( 1.5 – 22)	7.7 ( 1-18)
Tumour height [mm]	3.7 ( 1 - 7.6)	4.1 ( 0.5 – 12)
Distance to optic disk [mm]	7.2 ( 0 – 21)	6.4 ( 0 – 17)
Retinal detachment	22 / 175	31 / 178
Vitreous seeding	37 /175	15 / 178
Primary brachytherapy	56 / 175	60 / 178
Mean duration of radiation	69 h	68 h
Mean dose apex / base (rounded)	138 Gy / 419 Gy (NIST)	42 Gy /155 Gy
<b>Tumour recurrence / mean interval</b>	<b>4.6 % / 12.9 Monate</b>	<b>17% / 8 Monate</b>
<b>Radiation retinopathy</b>	<b>12 %</b>	<b>26 %</b>





## Modified penEasy/PENELOPE simulation



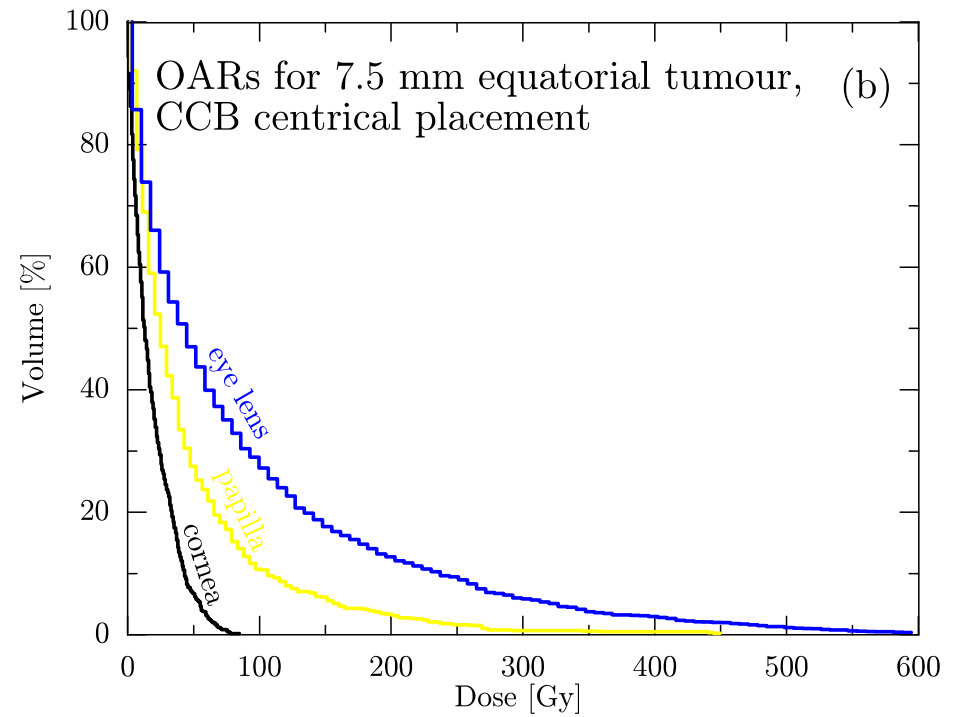
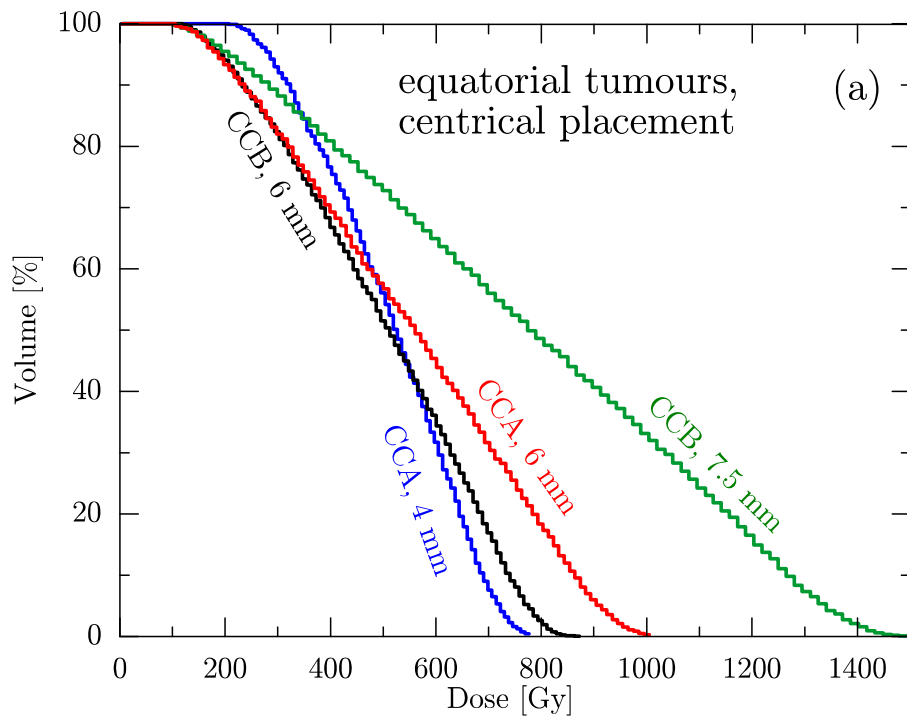
CCB plaque,  
7.5 mm apical  
height tumour

Strahlenther Onkol (2013)  
189, 68-73



# Modified penEasy/PENELOPE simulation

## Dose volume histograms?



Strahlenther Onkol (2013) 189, 68-73



## The evaluation of the clinical outcome

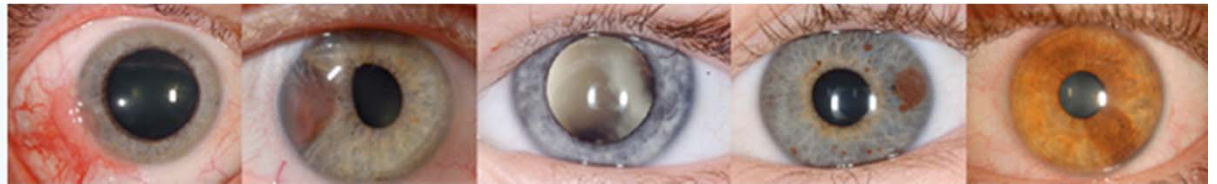
- All authors report excellent tumor control (and good functional outcome)
- Any optimization of ophthalmic radiotherapy has to focus on side effects
- Side effects and damage to normal structures are often not mentioned
- In contrast to other anatomical sites, a standardized reporting system of side effects after ophthalmic radiotherapy does not exist



**A standardized reporting of side effects is overdue**

## **The Radiation Side Effect Staging Project of the ISOO**

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF OCULAR ONCOLOGY



**Join us at**

**The First Eye Cancer Working Day  
on June 1, 2015 in Paris**

contact: [w.sauerwein@uni-due.de](mailto:w.sauerwein@uni-due.de)





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Henrike Westekemper  
Clare Stannard  
Jerome Mandrillon  
Mario Ciocca  
Andrea Wittig

Thank you!

