

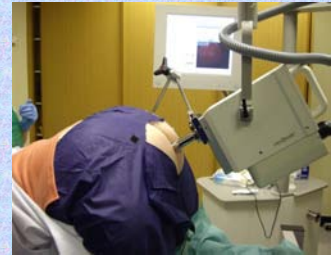


# Renaissance of contact radiotherapy with The Papillon 50: A new treatment option for elderly patients with early low rectal cancer?

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## Introduction

Local contact radiotherapy for early rectal cancer is an accepted treatment. However, the old Philips machine is obsolete and many centres are unable to continue treating patients using this technique. A new Papillon 50 machine is now commercially available and there is a new hope for elderly patients and others who wish to avoid major surgery or permanent stoma.

## Methods

Contact radiotherapy is still not regarded as standard treatment as there are no large randomised trials to prove its efficacy against standard surgical treatment (TME). ICONE group is proposing CONTEM trials which combine Contact RT with TEMS

**CONTEM 1** - Polyp ca <2cm Contact RT is given after TEMS for CRM (+)T1N0M0 (low risk).

**CONTEM 2** - Rectal ca (2-5cm) cT1/T2 N0M0 CRT+ Contact followed by TEMS

**CONTEM 3** - Elderly patients cT1/T2/T3a N0M0 following RT+ contact+/- TEMS or Watch policy

## Results

ICONE group meets annually and has organised courses to train clinicians to use the new RT50 Papillon machine. So far, 10 centres in Europe have now been trained. We hope to start the CONTEM trials shortly. The data from these trials will be collected centrally and updated annually. The results will be published in due course.

## Conclusions

Patients with early (T1N0) low rectal cancer (<6cm) are over treated with APR in 30-50% of cases<sup>1</sup>. Revival of contact radiotherapy allows multimodality treatment which avoids major surgery and morbidity which is considerable in elderly and high risk patients. The CONTEM trials will provide some evidence in this approach for suitable patients with early rectal cancer<sup>2</sup>

## References

1. E. Morris, B. Cottier. P. Quirk Unacceptable variations in APR rates for rectal cancer. Time to intervene?(2008) GUT :97; 1690-1697
2. J.P. Gerard, Robert Myerson, Arthur Sun Myint: Contact X-ray Therapy Rectal Cancer –International perspectives on multimodality treatment (2010)Springer (Humana press): New York, London