

Image-Guided Tumor Ablation: Standardization of Terminology and Reporting Criteria—A 10-Year Update

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ABSTRACT

Image-guided tumor ablation has become a well-established hallmark of local cancer therapy. The breadth of options available in this growing field increases the need for standardization of terminology and reporting criteria to facilitate effective communication of ideas and appropriate comparison among treatments that use different technologies, such as chemical (eg, ethanol or acetic acid) ablation, thermal therapies (eg, radiofrequency, laser, microwave, focused ultrasound, and cryoablation) and newer ablative modalities such as irreversible electroporation. This updated consensus document provides a framework that will facilitate the clearest communication among investigators regarding ablative technologies. An appropriate vehicle is proposed for reporting the various aspects of image-guided ablation therapy including classification of therapies, procedure terms, descriptors of imaging guidance, and terminology for imaging and pathologic findings. Methods are addressed for standardizing reporting of technique, follow-up, complications, and clinical results. As noted in the original document from 2003, adherence to the recommendations will improve the precision of communications in this field, leading to more accurate comparison of technologies and results, and ultimately to improved patient outcomes.

ABBREVIATIONS

IRE = irreversible electroporation, OS = overall survival, PFS = progression-free survival, RF = radiofrequency, SIR = Society of Interventional Radiology, TTP = time to tumor progression

In 2003, the International Working Group on Image-Guided Tumor Ablation published a document titled "Image-Guided Tumor Ablation: Proposal for Standardization of Terms and Reporting Criteria" (1). At the time, image-guided tumor ablation, and indeed, the subspecialty of interventional oncology, was in its infancy. Nevertheless, it was acknowledged by the members of the Working Group that the new field of image-guided tumor ablation required standardization of terminology and reporting criteria to facilitate effective communication

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of ideas and appropriate comparison among different technologies. The main objective of the document was "improved precision and communication in this field that leads to more accurate comparison of technologies and results and ultimately to improved patient outcomes" (1). Originally published in 2003 in *Radiology*, the document was subsequently reviewed at regular intervals in conjunction with the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) Technology Assessment Committee and republished in near original form in 2005 and 2009.

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Appendix E1 is available online at www.jvir.org.

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