

Dr. King Chong Chan, graduate of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, under the mentorship of Dr. Linda Lee at PMCC Dental Oncology, and Dr. Andrew Hope at PMCC Radiation Oncology, has been awarded the 2015/16 Wuehrmann Prize for best scientific publication.

Mandibular Changes on Panoramic Imaging after Head and Neck Radiotherapy

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The medical and dental charts, and panoramic images of 126 patients who received IMRT at the Princess Margaret Hospital between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2008, were analyzed independently by three observers.

Of the 126 patients, 75 (60%) had post-IMRT changes, as seen on panoramic images; most, 66 (88%), consisted of widened periodontal ligament space (WPLS). The median time to WPLS was 29 months after IMRT. Female gender and radiation dose correlated with decreased time to WPLS.

These results indicate that WPLS is a common radiographic sequela after head and neck radiotherapy, underscoring its clinical significance as a reliable marker of irradiated bone. Furthermore, this type of WPLS needs to be differentiated from odontogenic inflammatory disease and cancer recurrence to avoid unnecessary treatment that may precipitate osteoradionecrosis.

The AAOMR established "The Wuehrmann Prize" in 1995 for the best journal article published in the Radiology Section of Oral Surgery, Oral Pathology, Oral Medicine and Oral Radiology. The Award is named after Dr. Arthur H. Wuehrmann, a Distinguished Life Member of the Academy. The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in publishing.