

# Keep calm and beam on the use of palliative radiotherapy for cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

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## **SUMMARY**

Squamous cell carcinoma is a type of skin cancer that arises from the squamous cells, which are flat cells found in the outermost layer of the skin. Radiotherapy is a common treatment option. It utilises high-energy radiation beams to target and destroy cancer cells while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissues. **Case Presentation:** A 94-year-old man with multiple comorbidities presented with a painful progressive fungating growth over his right arm since January 2021. A skin punch biopsy performed in January 2023 showed a well-differentiated keratinising squamous cell carcinoma. He was unfit for surgery in view of age and comorbidities. He was given palliative radiotherapy to the right arm mass 8Gy/1#/1day at 100% using electron 9 MeV in March 2023. He was placed in supine position, right hand akimbo, a folded bed sheet was placed under the right elbow, a 1 cm gel bolus was placed over the mass, and a 1 cm folded wet gauze surrounding the mass to match the mass height. In two months post treatment, the mass has shrunk and flattened. He was pain-free and was able to carry out his daily activities well. Radiotherapy is a successful, time-efficient, well-tolerated, and cost-effective intervention that is crucial for the appropriate delivery of palliative oncology.