

PROPOSITIONS

1. Two dimensional calculation of target dose is no longer consistent with the limits of precision demanded at other stages in the irradiation of a patient.
2. CT scanning for radiotherapy planning must be performed under the same conditions as those under which the patient is to be irradiated. It is for this reason that radiotherapy department personeel must be present during this specialised form of scanning.
3. Considering the improved precision of their treatments and the cost-effectiveness of the procedure, Dutch radiotherapists should be compensated for the time that they are involved in using the CT scanning during the planning of the radiotherapy for their patients.
4. If radiotherapists also used the concept of 'partial response', they could record an almost 100% success rate with their treatments.
5. In the training of those specialists who will be treating patients with cancer, more attention and time should be given to the study of tumour biology and tumour pathology.
6. Patients with terminal cancer often suffer pain. The chance of succesful relief rises when one considers not only the medicinal treatment of the physical pain but also the non-medicinal therapy of the mental, social and spiritual elements of the pain (C. Saunders 'The management of terminal disease' published Edward Arnold, London 1978).
7. The obstacles to the completion of the enquiry into the effectiveness of the Moerman treatment of cancer must be overcome as soon as possible.
8. It is no longer defensible that 'doctors often appear reluctant to do their utmost to test the proposition that the outcome of their actions truly helps the patient and is more than a wasteful non-event' (Lancet 1983 / p 33).

9. Although the facilities of a teaching hospital and a subsidy may ease the life of the writer of a thesis, neither is a prerequisite for the completion of his study.
10. If one accepts that the writing of a thesis is an important part in one's training to be a good doctor, then it is regrettable that so few women are encouraged to complete such scientific work.
11. The use of a word-processor would greatly ease the task of the thesis writer and his secretary.
12. Smoking is a habit enjoyed by many but it is inessential for the enjoyment of life and causes much chronic ill-health and vast numbers of premature deaths especially due to cancer, bronchitis and heart disease. It is inconsistent that smoking is not more actively discouraged in hospitals and other health care premises for otherwise people argue that there is no need to worry when health workers appear unconcerned about the problem ('3rd. report on Smoking', the Royal College of Physicians of London 1977).
13. The majority of adolescents who try smoking become dependent on it. The distribution of free samples of cigarettes at sporting events and in discotheques should be declared illegal (Stichting Volksgezondheid; Roken en Konsumenten Kontakt).
14. Older single people should be able to work two hours less per day if thereby long-term ill health can be avoided. This easing of their double task (profession and housekeeping) should be subsidised from the A.A.W. funds (Sociaal Economische Raad 1983).
15. Unit pricing of provisions is an important aid to the consumer in order to shop economically (Commissie Prijsbekendmaking van de Sociaal Economische Raad 1983).
16. The existence of dialect reveals both the changing state of a language and its richness. Non-standard features are simply 'less acceptable in certain circles' rather than 'incorrect' or 'substandard'. Children should be positively encouraged not to abandon their native speech but only to know when it might not be appropriate ('Locally Speaking' B.B.C. 1983).

17. The Jewish origins of our Christian tradition are too often forgotten and are to be ignored at our peril.
18. A railway preservation society fulfils more functions than just being a hobby for its members.
19. In the Netherlands the harp is often regarded as an instrument of elegance on which only women may play. This overlooks the fact that men have been and are responsible for at least an equal share of its development and ignores their special contribution to its music.

Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift: "Computerised Tomography in Radiotherapy Planning" van P.C. Badcock te Zwolle.

Rotterdam, 30 september 1983.