

## **Gulmay Medical News: February 2009**

### **Gulmay Medical receives praise for recently published article**

Kirsti Gordon, Customer Support Manager for Gulmay Medical, recently published an article on Superficial X-ray therapy in The Society of Radiographers monthly publication, Synergy.

The article presented a recent review of the literature led by renewed interest in the subject following the release of the recent Grenz ray guidelines released by NICE. It also gave the opportunity to revisit some old arguments as to the applications of superficial therapy as well as addressing the need for this essential treatment technique in modern day radiotherapy around the world.

Gulmay Medical received a letter of congratulations from Julia Lawrence from Essex County Hospital, Colchester which is featured below:

*"I am writing to congratulate Kirsti Gordon on her excellent article about the treatment of skin cancer with superficial X-rays (Synergy, November 2008). The radiotherapy department at Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust has consistently promoted its use and treats well in excess of two hundred new cases of skin cancer per annum. It remains the treatment of choice for the vast majority of patients with skin cancer, particularly in the elderly where co-morbidities and mobility problems may exist. As for other 'older, tried and trusted' methods, let us not forget about orthovoltage radiotherapy. Its use has diminished significantly in many departments but it remains an ideal modality for palliation of fungating lesions, superficial bone metastases, mesothelioma drain sites and to palliate breast symptoms in men receiving anti androgen monotherapy for prostate cancer.*

*The units are inexpensive compared to Linear Accelerators, and require fewer staff to operate. Appropriate use of superficial and orthovoltage treatment can free-up megavoltage tube time, thereby increasing cost effectiveness and efficiency within the radiotherapy department.*

*Working in this area provides radiographers with some variety and enables them to spend longer with patients and learn about different aspects of radiotherapy physics and palliative care. It is also an ideal area for radiographers practice to develop to Advanced and Consultant level, with appropriate study at 'M' level and above. The radiographer can be responsible for Consent, marking up, prescribing and have input at the skin cancer MDT.*

*The new technologies now available in radiotherapy have never been more exciting, but palliation will remain an important component of radiotherapy services. This fact, together with the rising incidence of skin cancer, makes these modalities impossible to ignore.*

**Julia Lawrence DCR(T).  
Advanced Practitioner, Superficial and Orthovoltage Radiotherapy, Essex  
County Hospital, Colchester."**

**About Gulmay Medical:**

Gulmay Medical design and manufacture their range of Xstrahl x-ray therapy and scientific research systems. The XSTRAHL systems cover Grenz, Superficial and Orthovoltage X-rays, each unit can be tailored to the customers clinical requirements. With over fifteen years experience they have installed world class X-ray therapy systems in more than 500 clinics worldwide. They support the clinical application of the technique with STEP; an interactive Superficial Therapy Educational Program, available on CD and Online. A worldwide network of distributors allows them to provide comprehensive sales and product support, training and engineering service.