



IBA installs its first in-room CT-on-rails

Trento leads the way in proton therapy advancements

Trento, Italy, March 05, 2015 – IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A., EURONEXT), the world’s leading provider of proton therapy solutions for the treatment of cancer announces the successful installation of its first CT-on-rails that will be fully integrated into the proton therapy system at the Trento Proton Therapy Center, part of the Trento Azienda Provinciale per i Servizi Sanitari (APSS) health authority. With this CT-on-rails installation, the APSS adds another high quality feature to one of its treatment rooms, keeping pace with IBA in its course to continue to refine the advantages of proton therapy treatment.

CT-on-rails goes beyond the accurate positioning of the patient. It makes it possible to incorporate plan verification into the process, using high quality imaging to evaluate the dose distribution based on regular (daily or weekly) images to assess whether the treatment planning is still valid with regard to any anatomical changes within the patient, i.e. tumor shrinking, weight loss, etc., and adjust the planning if necessary. For now, adapting the treatment plan still needs to be done offline. Research is working towards the ultimate goal: integrating quick indicators of target and dose precision that would allow online reassessment and adaptation before every fraction to obtain an optimal result.

The CT-on-rails installed by IBA at Trento is a highly-advanced model with a large-bore 64-slice CT with low dose and pediatric imaging protocols, optimized workflow and high performance iterative reconstruction.

The clinical staff at APSS has started the clinical commissioning process, in order to integrate the new imaging option into their treatment protocols, and will collaborate with IBA engineers to further develop clinical applications of CT-on-rails positioning and adaptive treatments.

IBA plans to create a user group of proton therapy centers that are adopting this technology so research can be boosted and the full potential of CT-on-rails achieved. Ultimately, IBA believes that a combination of Pencil-Beam Scanning (PBS), CT-on-rails and Cone Beam CT (CBCT) will be able to reduce the treatment margins to such measures that better treatment protocols such as hypofractionation can be reached, not only limiting the number of fractions to an average of five to 10 instead of the current 25 to 35, but also reducing overall cost while obtaining better tumor control.

Frédéric Genin, Executive VP Product Management, IBA, said: "IBA is again at the forefront of adaptive proton therapy. We believe that this is a true step forward to adaptive proton treatment and that it will allow Trento to continue to be one of the most advanced centers."

Dr. Maurizio Amichetti, MD, Clinical Director of the Proton Therapy Center, commented: "We are very proud to be among the first to benefit from this highly-advanced imaging modality. We strongly believe that proton therapy still has a lot in store as a cancer treatment modality, and we are intent on staying on the cutting edge of every feature that brings it closer to its full potential."

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About Proton Therapy

Proton Therapy is considered the most advanced and targeted cancer treatment due to its superior dose distribution and fewer side effects. Protons deposit the majority of their effective energy within a precisely controlled range, directly within the tumor, sparing healthy surrounding tissue. Higher doses can be delivered to the tumor without increasing the risk of side effects and long-term complications, thereby improving patient outcomes and quality of life. www.iba-protontherapy.com

Today, more than half of proton therapy clinical facilities worldwide are IBA systems. This includes 18 proton therapy centers in operation and 14 additional centers under development. Over 30,000 patients have been treated on IBA equipment – more than on all major competitive installations combined.

About IBA

IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.) is a global medical technology company focused on bringing integrated and innovative solutions for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The Company is the worldwide technology leader in the field of proton therapy, the most advanced form of radiation therapy available today. IBA's proton therapy solutions are flexible and adaptable, allowing customers to choose from universal full scale proton therapy centers as well as compact, single room systems. In addition, IBA also has a radiation dosimetry business and develops particle accelerators for the medical world and industry.

Headquartered in Belgium and employing about 1100 people worldwide, IBA has installed systems across the world, from Europe and the US and to the emerging markets. IBA is listed on the pan-European stock exchange EURONEXT. (IBA: Reuters IBAB.BR and Bloomberg IBAB.BB) and more information can be found at: www.iba-worldwide.com

About the Azienda Provinciale per i Servizi Sanitari (APSS)

The Trento Health Authority (APSS) was set up in 1995 through the union of 11 local health units. The Trust ensures the delivery of all 'essential levels of care' set out by the Italian government plus additional services established by the provincial government. It is one of the largest health authorities in Italy with over 7,900 employees, 830 general practitioners, pediatricians and other specialists operating within its organization and 523,000 people registered. It handles direct management of seven hospitals and four health districts with 31 outpatient treatment units, three structural departments (laboratory, radiology, anesthesia and intensive care) and has agreements with seven hospitals, 17 outpatient treatment units and 55 nursing homes to provide health services.

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