

# Calibration of TLD700:LiF for Clinical Radiotherapy Beam Modalities & Verification of a High Dose Rate Brachytherapy Treatment Planning System

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables .....	4
List of Figures .....	5
Abbreviations.....	6
i. Abstract.....	8
ii. Declaration.....	10
iii. Acknowledgements .....	12
1. Introduction .....	14
2. Background and Literature Review.....	16
2.1 Theory of Thermoluminescence.....	16
2.2 Thermoluminescent Dosimeter (TLD) Materials and Calibration .....	18
2.3 Superficial X Ray (30 - 150 kVp) Beam TLD Response .....	19
2.4 Megavoltage (6 - 18 MV) Photon Beam TLD Response.....	21
2.5 Megavoltage (6 – 20 MeV) Electron Beam TLD Response.....	21
2.6 Iridium-192 brachytherapy Source TLD Response.....	22
2.7 Monte Carlo (MC) Modelling of an Iridium-192 Source.....	24
2.8 Brachytherapy Treatment Planning System (TPS) Verification.....	25
3. TLD Energy Dependence for Radiotherapy External Radiation Beams .....	30
3.1 Linac and SXR TLD Calibration Materials and Method .....	30
3.2 Linac and SXR Beam TLD Calibration Results.....	33
3.3 Linac and SXR Beam TLD Calibration Discussion.....	35
4. Monte Carlo Modelling of an Iridium-192 Source .....	38
4.1 MC Geometry and Physics .....	38
4.2 Verification of the MC Model.....	42
4.3 MC Simulation Results and Discussion .....	46
5. TLD Energy Dependence for Iridium-192 Spectra.....	58
5.1 Method for In-Air Calibration .....	58
5.2 Results and Discussion for In-Air Calibration.....	59
5.3 Methods for In-Water Calibration.....	61
5.4 Results and Discussion for In-Water Calibration .....	62
6. Verification of a Brachytherapy Treatment Planning System .....	66
6.1 Treatment Planning, Setup and Materials .....	66

6.2	Experimentation.....	74
6.3	Results and Statistical Analysis.....	80
7.	Summary.....	86
7.1	Conclusion.....	86
7.2	Future Development.....	89
8.	Appendix.....	92
8.1	Tables.....	92
8.2	Statistical Equations and Theory.....	92
8.3	Detector Construction GEANT4 Code.....	93
8.4	Voxel Scoring GEANT4 Code .....	99
8.5	Run Action GEANT4 Code.....	101
8.6	Physics List GEANT4 Code .....	103
8.7	Primary Generator Action GEANT4 Code.....	105
8.8	Main GEANT4 Code .....	105
8.9	Macro File GEANT4 Code.....	106
8.10	Example Certificate for HDR Source .....	108
9.	References.....	110

## List of Tables

Table 1. Energy response for seven linac beams (6 MV normalised).....	34
Table 2. Energy response for nine superficial x ray beams (6 MV normalised).....	34
Table 3. TLD100:LiF(Mg,Cu,P) quality response (Mobit, Nahum & Mayles 1998). ....	37
Table 4. Simulation results for $10^7$ particles, air voxel, air medium, 60 mm.....	43
Table 5. Simulation results for $10^7$ particles, air voxel, air medium. ....	44
Table 6. Simulation results for $5 \times 10^6$ particles, LiF voxel, water medium.....	48
Table 7. Simulation results for $5 \times 10^6$ particles, water voxel, water medium. ....	49
Table 8. Average energy of the $^{192}\text{Ir}$ spectra at different depths in water. ....	54
Table 9. Errors in dose due to positional uncertainty.....	60
Table 10. Energy response uncertainties at 50 mm for in-air exposure from $^{192}\text{Ir}$ . ...	61
Table 11. Exposure times and doses for TLD exposure to $^{192}\text{Ir}$ .....	62
Table 12. Energy response to $^{192}\text{Ir}$ gamma rays. ....	62
Table 13. Energy response uncertainties for in-water exposure from $^{192}\text{Ir}$ .....	64
Table 14. DVH criteria used clinically at the RAH.....	69
Table 15. DVH data for the PTV (prostate) and OAR (urethra).....	73
Table 16. Outline of TPS verification experiments. ....	74
Table 17. Dose to TLD points outside PTV (Experiment #1). ....	77
Table 18. Dose to TLD points inside PTV (Experiment #2). ....	78
Table 19. The dose delivered to TLD points (Experiment #4). ....	79
Table 20. TPS verification experiment results (Experiments #1 - #3). ....	80
Table 21. Statistical parameters from the verification of a full OCP treatment plan..	82
Table 22. TPS verification experiment results (Experiments #4).....	82
Table 23. Statistical parameters from the TLD verification of a single dwell plan. ....	83
Table 24. Statistical parameters from the MC verification of a single dwell plan. ....	84
Table 25. Source dwell times (s) for experiments #1 - #3.....	92

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Energy band diagram of TLDs.....	16
Figure 2. Glow curve.....	17
Figure 3. Solid water material (brown) and TLD PMMA template. ....	30
Figure 4. Linac setup for TLD exposure. ....	32
Figure 5. Superficial x ray setup for TLD exposure. ....	33
Figure 6. Beta minus decay of $^{192}\text{Ir}$ from the ground state (Chang 2013).....	39
Figure 7. EC decay of $^{192}\text{Ir}$ from the ground state (Chang 2013). ....	39
Figure 8. Model of the MicroSelectron v2 HDR source. ....	40
Figure 9. Analytic dose vs. projected dose in air. ....	45
Figure 10. Visualisation of MC simulation with 10 primary particles. ....	47
Figure 11. MC projected dose to water and TLDs in a water medium. ....	50
Figure 12. MC simulated differences in dose to water and TLD in a water medium..	51
Figure 13. Dose deposition in water compared to air.....	52
Figure 14. $^{192}\text{Ir}$ normalised $\gamma$ spectra at 1 and 10 mm depths in water.....	53
Figure 15. $^{192}\text{Ir}$ normalised $\gamma$ spectra at 10, 50 and 100 mm depths in water.....	53
Figure 16. Effect of attenuation in water and steel.....	55
Figure 17. Radial dose functions (Nath R, et al., 1995).....	56
Figure 18. $^{192}\text{Ir}$ HDR source normalised percentage depth dose curve in water. ....	57
Figure 19. PMMA jig used for $^{192}\text{Ir}$ gamma exposure of TLDs.....	58
Figure 20. TLD700:LiF chips in their sachet (nylon catheter behind). ....	59
Figure 21. Jig and TLDs in the large water tank.....	61
Figure 22. Energy response of TLDs in water to $^{192}\text{Ir}$ $\gamma$ rays. ....	63
Figure 23. The HDR prostate phantom.....	67
Figure 24. The HDR prostate grid template.....	68
Figure 25. Three-dimensional view of the treatment plan in OCP.....	71
Figure 26. Two-dimensional transverse slice of the treatment plan in OCP. ....	71
Figure 27. Two-dimensional sagittal slice of the treatment plan in OCP. ....	72
Figure 28. Cumulative DVH data for the PTV (prostate) and OAR (urethra). ....	72
Figure 29. Differential DVH data for the PTV (prostate) and OAR (urethra). ....	73
Figure 30. OCP verification experimental setup up.....	75
Figure 31. Schematic of the PMMA phantom .....	77
Figure 32. Plot of energy response of TLD700:LiF. ....	88

## Abbreviations

AAPM	American Association of Medical Physicists in Medicine
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
CI	Confidence Interval
$d_{max}$	Depth of maximum dose
DVH	Dose volume histogram
EBRT	External Beam Radiotherapy
EC	Electron Capture
FSD	Focus to Surface Distance
HDR	High Dose Rate
HVL	Half Value Layer
IC	Ionisation Chamber
ISL	Inverse Square Law
kVp	peak kilovolts (superficial x ray tube)
LDR	Low Dose Rate
LiF	Lithium Fluoride
Linac	Linear Accelerator
MC	Monte Carlo
MU	Monitor Units
OAR	Organs at Risk
OCP	Oncentra Prostate
PDD	Percentage Depth Dose
PTV	Planned Target Volume
RAH	Royal Adelaide Hospital
SD	Standard Deviation
SSD	Source to Surface Distance
SXR	Superficial X Ray
TCS	Treatment Control System
TG	Task Group
TL	Thermoluminescent
TLD	Thermoluminescent Dosimeter
TPS	Treatment Planning System
US	Ultrasound



# I. ABSTRACT

When heated, lithium fluoride (LiF) crystals that have been exposed to ionising radiation emit light proportional to their absorbed dose, in a phenomenon known as thermoluminescence. This phenomenon has applications in dose measurement for radiation research, clinical cancer treatment and personal safety dose monitoring.

LiF thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) have a response that is dependent on the energy spectrum of the incoming radiation. Therefore, TLDs need to be calibrated for each spectrum they are exposed to, in order to be used as accurate dosimeters.

The TLD energy response was investigated specifically for a set of TLD700:LiF(Mg,Ti) chips for a range of clinical radiation beams used for Radiation Oncology treatments, including Linear Accelerator electron and x ray beams, superficial x rays and an  $^{192}\text{Ir}$  brachytherapy source. Once calibrated, the TLD chips were used to verify the accuracy of the high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy treatment planning system, Oncentra Prostate.

To carry out this investigation, the TLD700:LiF chips were exposed to known doses of radiation from nominal 6 MV and 18 MV photon beams as well as nominal 6 MeV, 9 MeV, 12 MeV, 16 MeV and 20 MeV electron beams from a Linear Accelerator. The TLDs were read and the response from each beam was normalised to that from the 6 MV beam. The TLDs were also exposed to a series of known doses from a superficial x ray machine with peak energies of 30 kVp, 40 kVp, 50 kVp, 80 kVp, 100 kVp, 120 kVp and 150 kVp. The response to these was similarly compared to the response from the 6 MV beam with equivalent dose.

The TLDs were then calibrated for exposure to an iridium-192 source, used for HDR brachytherapy. The delivered dose was determined by Monte Carlo simulation of the experimental setup using the package GEANT4. The TLDs were exposed to the source in air and at varying depths in water. The response for each of these scenarios was compared to the response from the 6 MV beam.

Finally, the calibrated TLDs were used to verify the Oncentra Prostate treatment planning system by exposing them within a water phantom. A realistic prostate treatment plan was created on a reconstructed ultrasound image data set of the phantom. The treatment plan was delivered to the phantom with the TLD chips at known locations. The dose to the TLDs was compared to the simulated doses at corresponding points in the phantom within Oncentra Prostate.



Results show that, relative from the response to the 6 MV beam, TLDs under-respond by approximately 4% for electron beams and by approximately 3% for the 18 MV photon beam. An over-response of up to 54% was observed for SXR beams with peak energies between 40 and 150 kV. The TLD700 chips over-respond by approximately 11% when exposed to the gamma spectrum of  $^{192}\text{Ir}$  in air and were shown to have a depth dependent response in water.

The TLDs used to verify Oncentra Prostate produced a dose ratio of  $D_{TLD}/D_{OCP}$  that was not statistically different from the expected value of 1.0 at the 5% significance level. With confidence level 95%, the true value of  $D_{TLD}/D_{OCP}$  was shown to lie in the confidence interval  $1.023\pm 0.041$ . Therefore, Oncentra Prostate was considered verified for the full prostate treatment. When compared directly with Monte Carlo predictions, the dose ratio values of  $D_{MC}/D_{OCP}$  were also found not to be statistically different to 1.0 at the 5% significance level for a single dwell treatment plan. With confidence level 95%, the true value of  $D_{MC}/D_{OCP}$  was shown to lie in the confidence interval  $1.029\pm 0.064$ , so Oncentra Prostate was also considered verified for the single source dwell treatment plan.

## II. DECLARATION

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available for loan and photocopying, subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968. I also give permission for the digital version of my thesis to be made available on the web, via the University's digital research repository, the Library catalogue and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

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