

# Estimating $TPR_{20,10}$ Under Non-Reference Conditions Using a Geometric Sequence Approach

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## ABSTRACT

An alternative approach to estimate the Tissue Phantom Ratio (TPR) at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm ( $TPR_{20,10}$ ) under non-reference conditions is required to address situations where a  $10 \times 10$  cm<sup>2</sup> field size is not achievable on a specific Linear Accelerator (LINAC) during a beam quality test. This study aims to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions using a geometric sequence approach, and to compare it with the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions estimated using the Sauer method, the Palmans method, a linear fit approach, as well as with the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under reference conditions calculated using the TRS-398 protocol. The first step in this study was measuring the percentage depth dose (PDD),  $D_{20cm}$ , and  $D_{10cm}$  with field size variations from  $4 \times 4$  cm<sup>2</sup> to  $10 \times 10$  cm<sup>2</sup> for both 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams. The PDD were used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  using a geometric sequence approach, the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and a linear fit approach, and to calculate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  using the TRS-398 protocol. The  $D_{20cm}$  and  $D_{10cm}$  were also used to calculate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  using the TRS-398 protocol. The  $TPR_{20,10}$  for 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams estimated using the geometric sequence approach were  $0.683 \pm 0.004$  and  $0.742 \pm 0.005$ , respectively. The level of precision that could be reached by the geometric sequence approach is potentially equivalent to the TRS-398 protocol, the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach. The  $TPR_{20,10}$  for 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams estimated using the geometric sequence method did not show a significant difference compared with the  $TPR_{20,10}$  calculated using the TRS-398 protocol. However, the  $TPR_{20,10}$  for 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams estimated using the geometric sequence approach showed a significant difference compared with those  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the Sauer method and the Palmans method.

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## INTRODUCTION

A Linear Accelerator (LINAC) is a teletherapy machine used to produce high-energy X-ray beams or high-energy electron beams [1]. One of the parameters tested in monthly Quality Control (QC) of a LINAC is the quality of the X-ray beam. The X-ray beam quality test is performed to ensure that the X-ray beam quality remains stable and does not deviate by more than 1% from the baseline [2]. X-ray beam quality represents the ability of an X-ray beam to penetrate a water phantom. It is determined based on the Tissue Phantom Ratio (TPR) at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm ( $TPR_{20,10}$ ) or the Percentage Depth Dose (PDD) at a depth of 10 cm ( $PDD_{10}$ ), measured in a water phantom under reference conditions [3].

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Technical Reports Series No. 398 (TRS-398) recommends two methods to estimate  $TPR_{20,10}$  under reference conditions. The reference field size used to measure the absorbed dose in a water phantom is  $10 \times 10$  cm<sup>2</sup>.  $TPR_{20,10}$  can be calculated from PDD [4], which is obtained by measuring the absorbed dose as a function of depth in a water phantom relative to its maximum dose [5].  $TPR_{20,10}$  can also be calculated from the absorbed dose in a water phantom at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm [4]. However, in situations where a  $10 \times 10$  cm<sup>2</sup> field size is not achievable on a specific LINAC, these methods cannot be used to calculate  $TPR_{20,10}$  under reference conditions [6-8].

There are two alternative methods recommended by IAEA in the Technical Reports Series No. 483 (TRS-483) to estimate  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions, namely the Sauer method and the Palmans method [8]. Nevertheless, both the

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Sauer method and the Palmans method are less suitable for a LINAC which has baseline data of  $TPR_{20,10}$  that differ from those reported in the British Journal of Radiology Supplement 25 (BJR Sup. 25) [6,7,9]. Previous research has shown that the linear fit approach can also be used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference condition. This approach showed good agreement with both the Sauer method and Palmans method [9].

In this study, the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions were estimated using the geometric sequence approach. Furthermore, the  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the geometric sequence approach were compared with the  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach, as well as with the  $TPR_{20,10}$  calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

## THEORY AND CALCULATION

### Tissue Phantom Ratio (TPR)

TPR is an indicator of beam quality that represents the exponential attenuation of an X-ray beam in a water phantom [10]. The higher the beam quality, the deeper the penetration ability of an X-ray beam in a water phantom.  $TPR_{20,10}$  has a characteristic value for each X-ray beam energy. Therefore, its value differs for each X-ray beam energy used [3].

### Calculation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using the TRS-398 protocol

First,  $TPR_{20,10}$  was calculated from the PDD at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm in a water phantom using Eq. (1) [11,12]:

$$TPR_{20,10} = 1,2661 \frac{PDD_{20}}{PDD_{10}} - 0,0595 \quad (1)$$

where  $TPR_{20,10}$  refers to the TPR at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm under reference conditions, while  $PDD_{20}$  and  $PDD_{10}$  refer to the PDD at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively, measured under reference conditions [11,12].

Second,  $TPR_{20,10}$  was calculated from the absorbed dose at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm in a water phantom using Eq. (2) [4]:

$$TPR_{20,10} = \frac{D_{20cm}}{D_{10cm}} \quad (2)$$

where  $D_{20cm}$  and  $D_{10cm}$  refer to the absorbed doses at depths of 20 cm and 10 cm, measured under reference conditions [4].

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using the sauer method

The Sauer method is a method proposed by Otto Andreas Sauer used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions. The equation of the Sauer Method is expressed in Eq. (3) [7]:

$$Q = \frac{\left( TPR_{20,10}(s) - \left( b_1 + A_1 \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{S}{t}} \right) \right) \right)}{\left( b_2 + A_2 \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{S}{t}} \right) \right)} \quad (3)$$

where Q refers to the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions,  $TPR_{20,10}(s)$  refers to the measured  $TPR_{20,10}$  with an arbitrary field size, S is an arbitrary field size, and the variables  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$ , t,  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$  are constants [7].

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using the palmans method

The Palmans method is a method proposed by Hugo Palmans used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions. The equation of the Palmans Method is expressed in Eq. (4) [6]:

$$TPR_{20,10} = \frac{TPR_{20,10}(s) + d_1(10-S)}{1 + d_2(10-S)} \quad (4)$$

where  $TPR_{20,10}$  refers to the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions,  $TPR_{20,10}(s)$  refers to is the measured  $TPR_{20,10}$  with an arbitrary field size, S is an arbitrary field size, while the variables  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are constants [6].

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using a linear fit approach

A linear fit approach is used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions using linear regression. The equation of the linear regression is obtained by plotting a linear regression graph of field sizes versus  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions [9].

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using a geometric sequence approach

The  $TPR_{20,10}$  with field size variations from  $4 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$  to  $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$  reported in BJR Sup.25 show a pattern similar to the geometric sequence [9]. Therefore, the geometric sequence approach should be able to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  under non-reference conditions [13,14]. Accordingly, this approach is explored in this study.

## METHODS

### Measurement of PDD

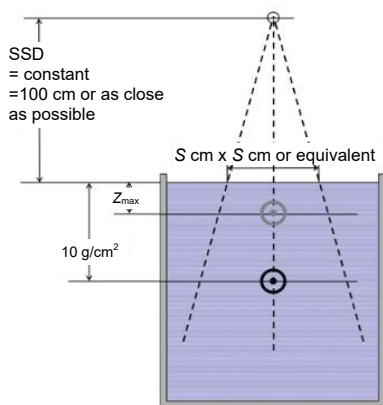
The PDD measurements were performed according to the TRS-483 protocol [8]. The measurement instruments and LINAC parameters are tabulated in Tables 1 and 2. Figure 1 shows the measurement setup of PDD.

**Table 1.** Measurement instruments for measuring PDD,  $D_{20cm}$ , and  $D_{10cm}$ .

Measurement instruments	
Water phantom	MP1 phantom tanks (PTW, Freiburg, Germany)
Ionization chamber	Semiflex chamber type 31010 (PTW, Freiburg, Germany)
Electrometer	Tandem dual channel electrometers (PTW, Freiburg, Germany)
LINAC	LINAC Elekta Synergy Platform (Elekta, Stockholm, Sweden)

**Table 2.** LINAC parameters for measuring PDD,  $D_{20cm}$ , and  $D_{10cm}$ .

LINAC parameters	Values
X-ray beam energy	6 MV and 10 MV
Field size variations for measuring PDD	$4 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$ , $5 \times 5 \text{ cm}^2$ , $6 \times 6 \text{ cm}^2$ , $7 \times 7 \text{ cm}^2$ , $8 \times 8 \text{ cm}^2$ , $9 \times 9 \text{ cm}^2$ , and $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$
Field size for measuring $D_{20cm}$ and $D_{10cm}$	$10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$
Source-to-surface distance (SSD) for measuring PDD	100 cm
Source-to-chamber distance (SCD) for measuring $D_{20cm}$ and $D_{10cm}$	100 cm



**Fig. 1.** Measurement setup of  $PDD_{10}$  ( $S \times S \text{ cm}^2$ ) [8].

### Calculation of $TPR_{20,10}$ from PDD using the TRS-398 protocol

The  $PDD_{20}$  and  $PDD_{10}$  obtained from the PDD measurement under reference conditions were used to calculate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  using Eq. (1) [4]. The calculated  $TPR_{20,10}$  were averaged with the  $TPR_{20,10}$  from the LINAC's monthly QC conducted from January 2022 to February 2023. This was possible because the  $TPR_{20,10}$  from the LINAC's monthly QC were also calculated from the PDD using the TRS-398 protocol [2].

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using the geometric sequence approach

The  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) was calculated using the PDD with field size variations from  $4 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$  to  $9 \times 9 \text{ cm}^2$  using Eq. (1). All  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) were modeled as the  $U_n$  term of the geometric sequence based on the field size variations as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Modeling of  $TPR_{20,10}$  as the  $U_n$  term.

$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $S \times S \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_n$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_1$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $9 \times 9 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_2$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $8 \times 8 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_3$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $7 \times 7 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_4$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $6 \times 6 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_5$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $5 \times 5 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_6$
$TPR_{20,10}$ ( $4 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$ )	$U_7$

The first term ( $U_1$ ) is started at  $10 \times 10 \text{ cm}^2$  to ensure the ratio ( $r$ ) is within the range  $-1 < r < 1$ . As a result, the term of the geometric sequence will always be a finite number [13]. The ratio between consecutive terms was calculated to estimate the  $U_1$  using the geometric sequence from  $U_3$  to  $U_7$ , and the estimated values of  $U_1$  were averaged.

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using the sauer method and the palmans method

The  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) were used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  using Eq. (3) for the Sauer method and Eq. (4) for the Palmans method [8]. Then, the estimated  $TPR_{20,10}$  values obtained using the Sauer method and the Palmans method were averaged separately.

### Estimation of $TPR_{20,10}$ using the linear fit approach

The  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) and their field sizes were plotted using SPSS software version 27 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, United States). The x-axis represented the field sizes and the y-axis represented the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s). The linear regression equation was used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  by substituting  $x = 10$  into the equation [9].

### Calculation of $TPR_{20,10}$ from absorbed dose using the trs-398 protocol

The  $D_{20cm}$  and  $D_{10cm}$  measurements were performed according to the TRS-398 protocol. Measurements of  $D_{20cm}$  and  $D_{10cm}$  were performed in three repetitions [4]. The measurement instruments and LINAC parameters are tabulated in Tables 1 and 2. Figure 2 shows the measurement setup for  $D_{20cm}$  and  $D_{10cm}$ .

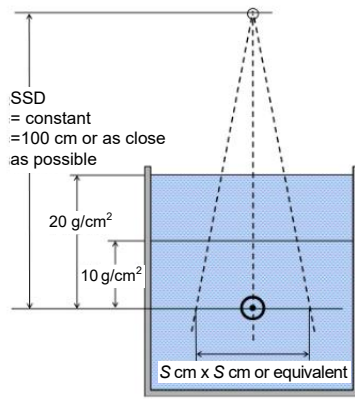


Fig. 2. Measurement setup of TPR<sub>20,10</sub> (S×S cm<sup>2</sup>) [8].

The D<sub>20cm</sub> and D<sub>10cm</sub> values under reference conditions were used to calculate the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> using Eq. (2), and the calculated values of TPR<sub>20,10</sub> were averaged [4].

### Calculation of relative differences

The relative difference between the estimated TPR<sub>20,10</sub> and the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> baseline data was calculated using Eq. (5) [4].

$$RD = \left| \frac{(TPR_{20,10} - TPR_{20,10,ref})}{TPR_{20,10,ref}} \right| \times 100\% \quad (5)$$

where RD refers to the relative difference (%), TPR<sub>20,10</sub> refers to the estimated TPR<sub>20,10</sub>, and TPR<sub>20,10</sub> Ref refers to the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> baseline data. Due to the unavailability of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> baseline data in Lavalette Hospital, the PDD baseline data were converted to TPR<sub>20,10</sub> using Eq. (1), and these value were used as the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> Ref. [4].

### Comparison of TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimation result

The TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach was compared with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the two methods recommended by the IAEA in TRS-483 and the linear fit approach. In addition, it was compared with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the two methods recommended by the IAEA in TRS-398. Furthermore, mean comparisons were performed using the paired T-test and the Durbin-Watson test in SPSS software version 27 [15,16].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Estimation of TPR<sub>20,10</sub> using the geometric sequence approach

The TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach is tabulated in Table 4.

Table 4. Estimation results of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> using the geometric sequence approach.

X-ray energy	Field size	TPR <sub>20,10</sub>	Mean ± SD <sup>a</sup>
6 MV	4×4 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.677	0.683 ± 0.004
	5×5 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.687	
	6×6 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.687	
	7×7 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.680	
10 MV	8×8 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.682	0.742 ± 0.005
	4×4 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.748	
	5×5 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.743	
	6×6 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.743	
	7×7 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.736	
	8×8 cm <sup>2</sup>	0.738	

<sup>a</sup> Standard deviation (SD)

Table 4 shows that the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> for the 10 MV X-ray beam was greater than the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> for the 6 MV X-ray beam. This occurs because the higher the X-ray energy used, the deeper the X-ray penetration in the water phantom [3].

The X-ray energy depends on the accelerator tube used. This is because a higher voltage in the accelerator tube results in a greater electric potential. As the electric potential increases, the potential difference inside the accelerator tube also increases. Consequently, the electrons in the accelerator tube are accelerated, converting their potential energy into kinetic energy [17,18].

Inside the accelerator tube, the speed of the electron beam is further increased by electromagnetic waves, resulting in a higher kinetic energy of the electron beam. When the electron beam interacts with the target, its kinetic energy is converted into heat and X-ray beam [19].

### Comparison of TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach with TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

Table 5 shows the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach and the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

In Table 5, the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach did not significantly differ from the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol. This shows that the geometric sequence approach is in good agreement with the TRS-398 protocol [20]. Furthermore, the standard deviation of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach was slightly different from the standard deviation of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol. This shows that the precision level of the geometric sequence approach was equivalent to that of the TRS-398 protocol [20]. Table 6 shows the P-values of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach paired with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

**Table 5.** TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach and TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

X-ray energy	Mean ± standard deviation		
	Geometric sequence approach	TRS-398 protocols	
		Calculated from PDD	Calculated from D <sub>20cm</sub> and D <sub>10cm</sub>
6 MV	0.683 ± 0.004	0.681 ± 0.001	0.680 ± 0.001
10 MV	0.742 ± 0.005	0.735 ± 0.001	0.736 ± 0.001

**Table 6.** Paired T-test of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

X-ray energy	Pair number	Paired method	P-value
6 MV	Pair 1	GS <sup>a</sup>	CP <sup>b</sup> 0.548
	Pair 2		CD <sup>c</sup> 0.405
10 MV	Pair 3		CP <sup>b</sup> 0.058
	Pair 4	GS <sup>a</sup>	CD <sup>c</sup> 0.037

<sup>a</sup> Geometric sequence approach (GS)  
<sup>b</sup> Calculation from PDD data based on TRS-398 protocol, (CP)  
<sup>c</sup> Calculation from D<sub>20cm</sub> and D<sub>10cm</sub> based on TRS-398 protocol (CD)

In Table 6, the P-values for Pairs 1, 2, and 3 were greater than 0.05. This shows that the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach and the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol were not significantly different. However, the P-value for Pair 4 was less than 0.05. This shows that the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach and the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated from the D<sub>20cm</sub> and D<sub>10cm</sub> were significantly different [21].

**Comparison of estimated TPR<sub>20,10</sub>**

Table 7 shows the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach, the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach.

In Table 7, the standard deviation of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the geometric sequence approach was slightly different from the standard deviation of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach. This indicates that the geometric sequence approach has a precision level equivalent to that of the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach [20]. Table 8 shows the P-values of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence method paired with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach.

**Table 7.** TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence and linear fit approaches, the Sauer method, and the Palmans method.

Method	Mean ± Standard deviation	
	6 MV	10 MV
Geometric sequence approach	0.683 ± 0.004	0.742 ± 0.005
Sauer method	0.675 ± 0.002	0.732 ± 0.003
Palmans method	0.675 ± 0.003	0.731 ± 0.001
Linear fit approach	0.682 ± 0.001	0.741 ± 0.001

**Table 8.** Paired T-test of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach.

X-ray energy	Pair Number	Paired Method	P-value
6 MV	Pair 1	SA <sup>b</sup>	0.030
	Pair 2	PA <sup>c</sup>	0.046
	Pair 3	LF <sup>d</sup>	0.461
10 MV	Pair 4	SA <sup>b</sup>	0.045
	Pair 5	PA <sup>c</sup>	0.048
	Pair 6	LF <sup>d</sup>	0.857

<sup>a</sup> Geometric sequence approach (GS)  
<sup>b</sup> Sauer method (SA)  
<sup>c</sup> Palmans method (PA)  
<sup>d</sup> Linear fit approach (LF)

**Table 9.** Relative difference between the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach, the TRS-398 protocol, the TRS-483 protocol, and the linear fit approach.

X-ray energy	Relative difference to TPR <sub>20,10</sub> calculated from PDD data			
	Geometric sequence	Sauer method	Palmans method	Linear fit method
6 MV	0.29%	0.88%	0.88%	0.15%
10 MV	0.95%	0.41%	0.54%	0.82%
X-ray energy	Relative difference to TPR <sub>20,10</sub> calculated from D <sub>20cm</sub> and D <sub>10cm</sub>			
	Geometric sequence	Sauer method	Palmans method	Linear fit method
6 MV	0.44%	0.74%	0.74%	0.29%
10 MV	0.82%	0.54%	0.68%	0.68%

In Table 8, the P-values for Pairs 1, 2, 4, and 5 were less than 0.05. This shows that the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach and the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the Sauer method and the Palmans method were significantly different. However, the P-values for Pairs 3 and 6 were greater than 0.05. This shows that the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach and the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the linear fit approach were not significantly different [21]. Table 9 shows a comparison of the relative difference between the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach, the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach with the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> calculated using the TRS-398 protocol.

Specifically for the 6 MV X-ray beam in Table 9, the relative difference of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the geometric sequence approach was lower than the relative difference of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the Sauer method and Palmans method. This is because the equation for estimating TPR<sub>20,10</sub> used in the Sauer method is derived from the pattern of the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> at different field sizes in the BJR Sup. 25. As a result, the estimation of TPR<sub>20,10</sub> is closer to the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> reported in the BJR Sup. 25, which is 0.667 ± 0.003 [7].

The TPR<sub>20,10</sub> estimated using the Palmans method was also close to the TPR<sub>20,10</sub> reported in the

BJR Sup. 25, similar to the  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the Sauer method. This is because the equation for estimating  $TPR_{20,10}$  used in the Palmans method is a modification of the Sauer equation. The constants  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $b_1$ ,  $b_2$ ,  $t$ , and the exponential term in the Sauer method were simplified into only two constants,  $d_1$  and  $d_2$ , by Palmans [6]. Furthermore, each variant of a LINAC has different specifications, so the baseline data of  $TPR_{20,10}$  also differs for each variant [22]. The  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 6 MV X-ray beam of the LINAC used in this study was slightly different from the  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 6 MV X-ray beam reported in the BJR Sup. 25 [9].

Specifically for the 6 MV X-ray beam in Table 9, the relative difference of the  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the geometric sequence approach was greater than the relative difference of the  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach. The lack of accuracy of the geometric sequence method when used to estimate the  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 10 MV X-ray beam can be inferred from the Durbin-Watson test results [16].

The Durbin-Watson test showed that no errors occurred due to autocorrelation in the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) for the 6 MV X-ray beam. However, the Durbin-Watson test showed that errors occurred due to autocorrelation in the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) for the 10 MV X-ray beam. As a consequence, in estimating the  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 10 MV X-ray beam, the geometric sequence and the linear fit approaches were less accurate than the Sauer method and the Palmans method [16]. Errors due to autocorrelation affected the accuracy of the linear regression equation and the ratio of the geometric sequence.

The Sauer method and the Palmans method were not affected by errors due to the autocorrelation. This is because the equations used in both the Sauer method and the Palmans method were derived from the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) reported in the BJR Sup. 25, and were not derived from the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) from the LINAC used in this study [6]. However, the equations used in the geometric sequence and linear fit approaches were not derived from the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) reported in the BJR Sup. 25, instead they were derived from the  $TPR_{20,10}$  (s) from the LINAC used in this study. However, all relative differences in Table 7 did not exceed  $\pm 1\%$  from the baseline data of the  $TPR_{20,10}$ , which is desirable in this context [2].

## CONCLUSION

The  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams estimated using the geometric sequence approach were  $0.683 \pm 0.004$  and  $0.742 \pm 0.005$ , respectively. The geometric sequence approach has a level of precision equivalent to the TRS-398

protocol, the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach. The  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams estimated using the geometric sequence approach did not show a significant difference compared with those  $TPR_{20,10}$  calculated using the TRS-398 protocol and the linear fit approach. However, the  $TPR_{20,10}$  for the 6 MV and 10 MV X-ray beams estimated using the geometric sequence approach showed a significant difference compared with those  $TPR_{20,10}$  estimated using the Sauer method and the Palmans method.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

F.A. Rizaldi, S. Herwiningsih, and C.S. Widodo designed the study, calculated the  $TPR_{20,10}$  using the geometric sequence approach, the Sauer method, the Palmans method, and the linear fit approach, and the TRS-398 protocol. They analyzed the data, performed statistical tests, and wrote the manuscript. F.K. Hentihu and A.K. Anto operated the LINAC, measure the PDD,  $D_{20cm}$ ,  $D_{10cm}$ , and reviewed the manuscript.

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