

Contour ProtégéAI™ at the Austin Center for Radiation Oncology



The Austin Center for Radiation Oncology

The Austin Center for Radiation Oncology (ACFRO) was founded in 2009 by a Texas-based Urology group, Urology Austin, with the collective goal of specializing treatment for prostate cancer. Since then, staff at the center — primarily composed of one Radiation Oncologist, a Medical Physicist and Dosimetrist, and four Radiation Therapists — have treated over 2,000 patients and now treat an average of 70-75 patients daily.

Implementing an Auto-Contouring Solution

In 2020, the center implemented Contour ProtégéAI — an auto-contouring solution using artificial intelligence from MIM Software — after previous use with MIM Software’s comprehensive Radiation Oncology solution, MIM Maestro®. The goal for the implementation of an auto-contouring solution was to expedite one of the more laborious tasks in the pre-treatment planning process for Medical Physicist and Dosimetrist, Brad Pollard and Radiation Oncologist, Dr. Richard Garza. By automating the contouring process, staff could instead dedicate resources toward critical innovation, treatment plan quality improvement, and further specialization.

Contour ProtégéAI allows me to spend more time on the treatment planning process to deliver a better plan for the patient... We have a very high patient load... you're not able to take as many passes through the treatment planning system to deliver the patient the optimal plan. Taking the contour time out of that process allows me to spend more time generating a higher quality plan for our patients."

Brad Pollard
Medical Physicist and Dosimetrist
Austin Center for Radiation Oncology

Results Following Implementation

Following implementation, Dr. Richard Garza reported decreased fatigue with the contouring process and directly attributed improved patient care to the new solution. Additionally, Dr. Garza shared that his duties in the contouring process had evolved from a manual drawing of structures to a more critical assessment of Contour ProtégéAI-produced contours.

Brad Pollard also shared that the time saved on contouring allowed him to spend more time generating a higher quality plan for ACFRO patients and spoke to the quality of the contours produced by Contour ProtégéAI — stating that on certain structures, the platform produced more accurate contours than he was able to manually.

ACFRO staff reports that since implementation, the average time to contour a patient has dropped from 10-15 minutes to 2-3 minutes on average, including editing the contours produced by Contour ProtégéAI.

