

# HDR GYN dose statistics script user guide

E. A. Simiele

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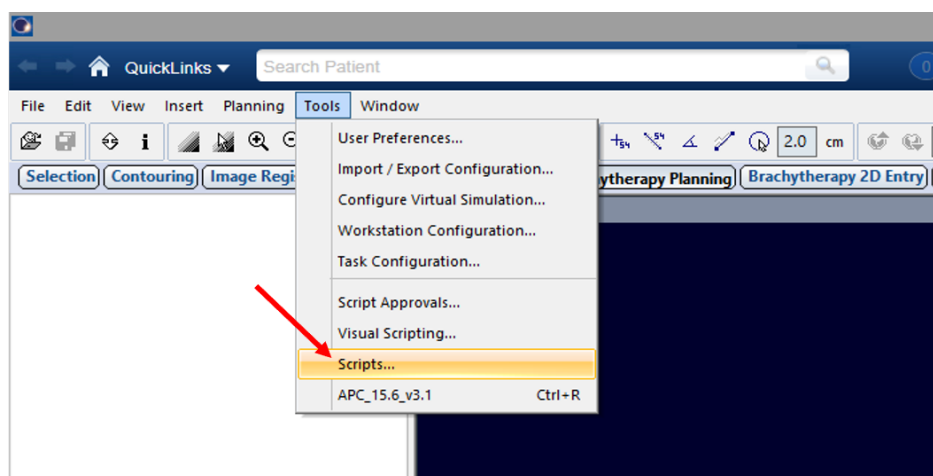


Figure 1: How to access scripts within the Eclipse treatment planning system.

## 1 How to run the script

- To run the script (or any script within Eclipse), go to Tools → Scripts in Brachytherapy Planning or External Beam Planning (Figure 1)
- Select 'Folder' and 'Change Folder ...' (Figure 2)
- Navigate to and select the folder:
  - \\vfs0006\RadData\oncology\ESimiele\HDR\ESAPI\release\_versions\
    - **Don't worry if the folder is empty. The file browser doesn't display script files by default**
- Run the script 'doseStats\_vXX.dll'
  - The 'XX' corresponds to the current version number
- The user interface for the script is shown in Figure 3
- By default, user specified metrics (see Section 3.1 for configuring the default metrics) are obtained from the open plan and the previously treated fractions (determined by the plan treatment approval status)
  - **NOTE: THE SCRIPT MAY TAKE A FEW SECONDS TO CALCULATE AND GRAB THE METRICS THE FIRST TIME YOU RUN THE SCRIPT!**
  - **THIS IS BECAUSE THE SCRIPT NEEDS TO CALCULATE THE DVH FOR THE RELEVANT STRUCTURES IN THIS PLAN AND THE PREVIOUS PLANS.**
  - After the first execution, the script should launch instantaneously

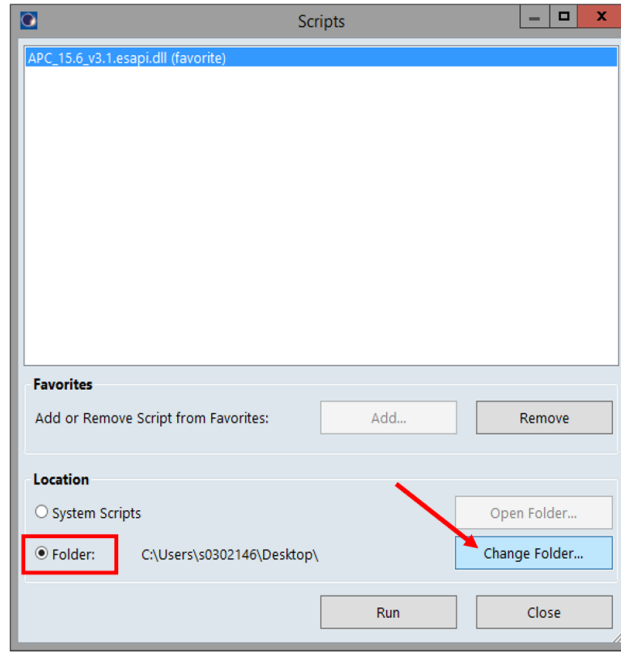


Figure 2: How to change the location of the folder used to load scripts (.dll files).

- By default, the patient is assumed to have a prior external beam treatment of 4860 cGy in 27 fractions. This information is used in the calculation of the EQD2 to the target and OAR volumes from the external beam course, which is subsequently added to the HDR EQD2
  - The default dose per fraction and number of fractions from the EBRT course can be adjusted in the GUI (Figure 3) or on the configuration .ini file (Section 3.1)
- EQD2 is calculated as:

$$EQD2 = nd * \left( \frac{d + \frac{\alpha}{\beta}}{2.0 + \frac{\alpha}{\beta}} \right) \quad (1)$$

- n = number of fractions, d = dose per fraction, and  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$  is defined for each tissue

## 1.1 How to launch the script with a keyboard shortcut

- The instructions in the previous section explain how to launch scripts within Eclipse. However, using that methodology you will need to manually go to Tools → Scripts, select the script you want, and hit Run
- This time consuming process can be costly, especially in brachytherapy. To expedite the process of launching scripts, you can 'macro' favorite scripts to your keyboard

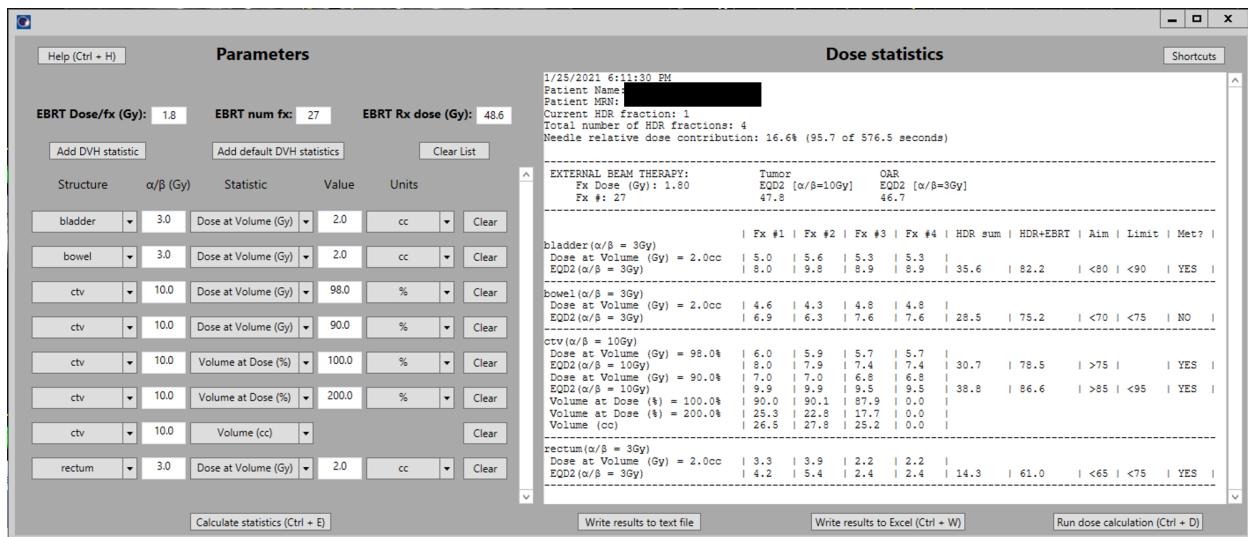


Figure 3: The user interface when the script is first launched. By default (see Section 3.1), several metrics are obtained from the current plan and the previously treated plans for this patient.

- By macro, I mean using a keyboard shortcut (e.g., Ctrl + E) to launch the desired script
- To add a favorite script, go to Tools → Scripts
- In the Scripts window, highlight the script you want to macro to your keyboard, and add the script as a favorite (Figure 4)
- In the window that pops up, assign this script to a keyboard shortcut of your choice (I recommend Ctrl + E)
- With the script macro-ed to your keyboard, you should be able to open the brachytherapy plan of interest, select one of the viewing plans, and use your macro to launch the script

## 1.2 How to use keyboard shortcuts or macros within the script

- To improve the efficiency of using the script, default metrics (see Section 3.1) are automatically retrieved upon execution
- In addition, it is recognized that having to manually click the various buttons in the UI (Figure 3) can slow down the treatment planner
- Therefore, keyboard shortcuts or macros were implemented to improve the efficiency of performing functions within the script. A list of the functions is shown in Table I

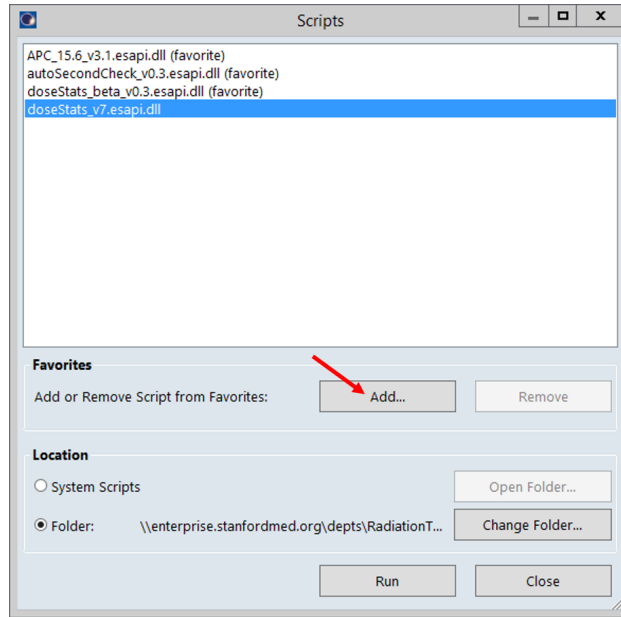


Figure 4: How to add a script to favorites (i.e., how to macro a script to your keyboard).

Table I: Available shortcuts in the script.

Action	Keyboard shortcut
Close the script	Ctrl + Q
Calculate metrics	Ctrl + E
Write the obtained metrics to the Excel template	Ctrl + W
Write the physics second check results to the Excel template	Ctrl + D
Open this help guide	Ctrl + H

- I find it particularly useful to bounce in and out of the script using the keyboard shortcuts
  - E.g., I will make a change to the dose distribution in the plan, launch the script to evaluate where I am with respect to the dose limits, then hit Ctrl + Q to close the script. Rinse and repeat
  - This way, you don't need to waste time using your mouse to close the script
- These shortcuts are also useful if you are too lazy to click on the buttons

### 1.3 How to modify the requested statistics

- The requested statistics can easily be changed by hitting the 'Add DVH statistic' button
- A new row will be added to the requested statistics. You will need to select a structure

- The available structures (hard-coded) are: bladder, bowel, rectum, sigmoid, ctv, and pt A
- Upon selecting a structure, the accompanying  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$  ratio will be updated (this field is read-only)
- Select a statistic
  - The available statistics are: Dose at Volume (Gy), Dose at Volume (%), Dmean (Gy), Dmean (%), Volume at Dose (cc), Volume at Dose (%), and Volume (cc)
- For the Dose at Volume (Gy), Dose at Volume (%), Volume at Dose (cc), and Volume at Dose (%) metrics, you will be prompted to enter a query value and the associated units with the query (either cc, Gy, or %)
- Individual rows in the requested statistics can be removed by hitting the 'Clear' button
- The entire set of requested statistics can be cleared by hitting the 'Clear List'
- The statistics can then be re-added one at a time with the 'Add DVH statistic' button or the default parameters can be added by hitting the 'Add default DVH statistics' button (these are the same statistics that are retrieved when the script is initially launched)
- The EQD2 from the external beam course can modified by changing the values in the EBRT Dose/fx (Gy) and EBRT num fx text boxes (the value in EBRT Rx dose (Gy) text box is read-only)

## 1.4 How to write dose statistics to excel and txt

Table II: Default statistics that are written to the EQD2 Excel spreadsheet.

Structure	Metric
Bladder	D2cc (Gy)
Bowel	D2cc (Gy)
Rectum	D2cc (Gy)
CTV	D98% (Gy)
CTV	D90% (Gy)
CTV	V100% (%)
CTV	V200% (%)
CTV	Volume (cc)
pt A	Dmean (Gy)
N/A	Needle dwell time contribution (%)

- The relevant metrics listed in Table II can be written to the specified excel template by hitting the 'Write results to Excel' button (or using the associated macro)
  - The metrics in Table II represent the defaults, but these can be adjusted in the configuration .ini file
- A copy of the excel template file will be taken from the specified patient database folder folder, the data will be written to the file, and the file will then be written to the patient folder. If the patient folder isn't found, you will be prompted to select a folder to write the resulting file
- If the excel file is open, the script can't access the patient folder, etc. the script will not be able to save the file
  - The script should recognize the issue and inform you that there was a problem writing the file. It will then ask if you want to write the excel data to another location with another file name
- Upon writing the results to the patient folder, a pop-up window will appear and ask if you want to launch the newly-created excel file
- The individual metrics listed in Table II (or in the configuration .ini file) will only be written to the excel file only if you originally requested them
- The user also has the option to write the text in the output window to a simple .txt file by hitting the 'Write results to text file' (sorry, no macro). Upon hitting this button, you will be requested to select a folder and filename for the text file

## 1.5 How to write the physics second check results to excel

- **NOTE: THIS SECTION ONLY APPLIES TO STANFORD'S HDR PRACTICE AS THEY PERFORM A SECOND DOSE CALCULATION USING EXCEL**
- Similar to the previous subsection, the user has the option to run the physics second dose calculation check and automatically write the results to the template excel file for second checks ('Cylinder 2nd Check.xlsx' or 'Interstitial 2nd Check.xlsx')
- The script can automatically determine which excel spreadsheet should be used depending on the number of applicators present in the plan
- Similar to the previous subsection, the script will automatically write the results to the appropriate patient folder (and will prompt you to select a folder if the patient folder isn't found)
- Upon writing the results to the patient folder, a pop-up window will appear and ask if you want to launch the newly-created excel file

- At this point, you just need to enter the relevant information for the 'MD/Res' and 'Plan/Check' cells. The spreadsheet is now ready for review by the physicist
- All the information written to the cells is simply taken from the dwell time and position information for each applicator
- The reference point that is selected for evaluation is determined by grabbing all of the available reference line points and ordering them based on the square of the dose difference between the dose at the point and the prescription dose. The first item in the list is selected for QA
- The Ir-192 source activity reported in Eclipse is the CALIBRATION activity. Therefore, this activity is retrieved and decayed to the current DAY (it is decayed to 12:00 am of the current day to match how the decay is performed in the excel spreadsheet generated during each source exchange)

## 2 How it works and assumptions in the script

### 2.1 Number of fractions

- The number of HDR fractions for a given patient is determined from the primary reference point
- The reason this methodology is used is because the number of fractions assigned to the plan will generally be one, which is incorrect
- However, the reference point total dose limit and daily dose limit are typically assigned to the overall dose fractionation intent for the HDR course. Therefore the number of fractions is calculated as the ratio of the reference point total dose limit to the daily dose limit **CAST AS AN INT TYPE!**
  - By casting to an int, we are assuming the ratio is an integer value with no remainder. If this is not the case, by casting to an int, we drop the remainder entirely (i.e., the number of fractions will be rounded down)
- **If the dose fractionation intent for the HDR course is NOT assigned to the primary reference point, THE SCRIPT WILL NOT WORK CORRECTLY!**

### 2.2 Current and previous plan sorting

- When the script is launched, it will grab all treatment approved brachytherapy plans in the open course
- If the open plan is NOT treatment approved, the script will still add it to the list of plans



- When ESAPI grabs multiple objects from Eclipse and places them in a list, there's no guarantee the list will be in chronological order
- Therefore, the list of plans is sorted according to the character immediately following the 'HDR' string in the plan Id
  - Typically, the plan Id's will contain HDR1, HDR2, etc.
  - Additional information may be added to the plan Id, but typically the character following the 'HDR' string will denote the fraction number
- If the plan Id's do not conform to this naming convention, the script will throw an error and inform you that you need to fix the issue before using the script

## 2.3 Structure determination from each fraction

- With the list of plans sorted, we can start pulling the requested information from each plan
- You'll notice the structure names in the drop-down list under Structure in the requested statistics are generic names
- The script was written this way due to the heterogeneity in structure naming from fraction-to-fraction, particularly for the target volumes
- As the script iterates through the list of plans, the structure of interest is determined by finding all structures that contain generic structure name and are NOT empty
  - For example, if bladder D2cc is requested, all structures containing 'bladder' and are not empty are added to the list
  - NOTE: THE SCRIPT IS NOT SENSITIVE TO THE STRUCTURE ID CASE
- The CTV structure is a special case because the structure Id for the CTV of interest changes for each fraction
- Typically, the target structure of interest for a given fraction is named: `ctv_mri<fx #>` where `fx #` is the current fraction number
- In addition, the target structures from the previous fractions are typically propagated to all subsequent fractions
- To determine the appropriate structure for the CTV for a given fraction, the script finds all structures that contain `ctv_mri<fx #>` and are NOT empty
  - If the list of CTV structures is empty, the script will grab all structures that contain `ctv` and are NOT empty
- If the retrieved structure list contains zero items, the requested dose statistic for that structure is skipped for that particular fraction

- If the retrieved structure list contains multiple items, a popup window will appear asking you to select the structure you want to use for analysis

## 2.4 Data reporting

- The achieved dose statistics in the current and previous fractions are reported to the user
- If additional fractions need to be delivered beyond the current plan:
  - For all dose metrics where a dose value is requested, the achieved dose statistics from the current plan are propagated to the total number of fractions (Section 2.1)
  - For all dose metrics where a volume is requested, 0.0 is reported for all subsequent fractions
- Propagating the achieved dose values in the current fraction to all subsequent fractions is useful in the determination of meeting dose constraints
- Propagating volume or achieved volume values doesn't provide much useful information and is a bit nonsensical, therefore, 0.0 is reported for these metrics for all subsequent fractions
- For all metrics that request an absolute dose value:
  - the EQD2 will be calculated for that metric for each fraction
  - the sum of the EQD2 values from the HDR treatments will be calculated
  - the sum of the EQD2 values from the HDR treatments and the external beam course will be calculated

## 2.5 Aims and limits

Table III: Default aim and limit values for the metrics of interest.

<b>Metic</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Limit</b>
Bladder D2cc EQD2 (Gy)	< 80 Gy	< 90 Gy
Bowel D2cc EQD2 (Gy)	< 70 Gy	< 75 Gy
Rectum D2cc EQD2 (Gy)	< 65 Gy	< 75 Gy
CTV D98% EQD2 (Gy)	> 75 Gy	
CTV D90% EQD2 (Gy)	> 85 Gy	< 95 Gy

- The default dosimetric aims and limits of interest are shown in Table III
- The default aims and limits can be configured in the configuration .ini file (Section 3.1)

- NOTE: currently, the aims and limits can only be configured for dose statistics as we are evaluating if a single value (i.e., total EQD2) is acceptable. Additional logic is needed for evaluating volumetric statistics because we are evaluating if multiple values are acceptable
- If both an aim and limit are present for a particular metric, the constraint is considered to be met if either the aim or limit is met
- If the inequality operator is different between the aim and limit (e.g., ctv D90% in Table III), the constraint is considered to be met if BOTH the aim and limit are met

## 2.6 Needle dwell time contribution

- If needles are present in the plan, it is of interest to determine their overall dosimetric contribution in the plan
- Per the ABS guidelines for HDR treatment on locally advanced carcinoma of the cervix, no more of the 10-20% of the total dwell time should be linked to the needles
- The script automatically calculates the needle dwell time contribution and reports it to the user for the open plan if needles are present in the current plan
- The total dwell time in the plan is calculated by summing the total dwell times from each catheter
- The needle dwell times are calculated by summing the total dwell times from each RELEVANT catheter
- The needle catheters are determined by grabbing all catheters where the catheter Id does NOT contain (not case sensitive): 'tandem', 'ring', 'ovoid', or 'cylinder'
- If the plan protocol Id contains 'T&0' or 'TO' (indicating that the plan is a tandem and ovoid or tandem and ring), the size of the needle catheter list is evaluated
  - If the total number of catheters minus the number of needle catheters is equal to one, the first catheter in the needle catheter list is removed
  - This logic is used for the situation where the patient is treated with a tandem and ring, but the treatment planner digitized the ring with a normal applicator (i.e., not a solid applicator) and did not set the ring catheter Id to include 'ring'

## 3 FYI for physics

### 3.1 Configuring the script

#### 3.1.1 Introduction, general commands, and requesting default statistics

- To reduce the number of changes to the underlying code, the script was modified so the user can load a configuration file to define the relevant paths and default statistics
- **The configuration file MUST be named HDR\_doseStats\_config.ini and MUST be placed in a folder named 'configuration' that is located in the same directory as the compiled script .dll**
- Comments in the HDR\_doseStats\_config.ini file can be added by placing a '%' character at the beginning of a line
- The patient database (keyword: patient database) path and excel template (keyword: excel template) can be specified as options
  - Syntax: patient database=<path>
  - Syntax: excel template=<file with extension, no path>
  - **NOTE: THE SCRIPT ASSUMES THE EXCEL TEMPLATE FILE RESIDES IN THE PATIENT DATABASE FOLDER!**
  - Checks are performed to ensure the entered path and excel template file exist
- Default requested statistics can also be added to the configuration file
  - Syntax:  
add default statistic{<structure>,<alpha/beta>,<statistic>,<query value>,<query value units>}
  - E.g., add default statistic{bladder,3.0,Dose at Volume (Gy),2.0,cc}
- **NOTE: THE SCRIPT IS CASE SENSITIVE TO THE ENTERED PARAMETERS!**
- **NOTE: THE SCRIPT IS SENSITIVE TO SPACES BEFORE/AFTER THE ENTERED VALUE(S)!**
  - E.g., add default statistic{bladder ,3.0, Dose at Volume (Gy),2.0,cc} will cause problems with the script
- Logic was added to the script to ensure basic fidelity of the added parameters, but is by no means comprehensive

### 3.1.2 Requesting default aims and limits

- The default aims and limits (Table III) can be modified in the HDR\_doseStats\_config.ini file using the 'add limit' command
- As mentioned previously, aims in limits in this script only apply to requested statistics that retrieve an absolute dose value
- Syntax:

add limit{<structure>,<statistic>,<query value>,<query value units>,<aim>,<limit>}

- **NOTE: THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE INEQUALITY OPERATORS FOR THE AIM AND LIMIT ARE '<' OR '>'**
- A request statistic can have an aim, a limit, or both
- If a requested statistic only has one constraint (i.e., an aim or a limit), YOU STILL MUST INCLUDE AN EMPTY SPACE WHERE THE MISSING CONSTRAINT WOULD GO!
  - E.g., we want the limit for Bladder D2cc<80 Gy and there is no aim for this constraint. Therefore, the syntax is:  
add limit{bladder,Dose at Volume (Gy),2.0,cc,<80}
- If an aim/limit is added for a requested statistic that DOES NOT retrieve an absolute dose value, it is ignored and will not show up in the statistics window

### 3.1.3 Writing data to the EQD2 Excel sheet

- The data that should be written to the excel file can also be specified in the HDR\_doseStats\_config.ini file
- Header information for the excel file (e.g., patient name, MRN, date, etc.) can be specified using the parameter=value syntax discussed in the previous section
  - For these items, the value will consist of an array where the first element is the row and the second element is the column (e.g., excel patient name={2,B})
  - This syntax is also used to indicate if the needle contribution and number of needles in each plan should be written to the excel file
- Relevant statistics that should be written to the Excel file can be specified using the following syntax:

add excel statistic{<structure>,<statistic>,<query value>,<query value units>,<row>,<column>}

where <row> and <column> correspond to a starting location in the Excel file

- NOTE: all of these statistics will be written to the FIRST sheet in the Excel file
- Again, the requested excel statistics will only be written to the excel file IF they were requested from the plans (e.g., 'add default statistic')
  - I.e., if the data wasn't retrieved from the plans, then there is nothing to write to the excel file
- Since each requested statistic essentially represents a data vector, you need to specify if the data should be written across columns (columnwise) or across rows (i.e., rowwise)
  - **NOTE: If 'excel write format' is not set correctly (i.e., does not match the format of the excel file), then the output to the excel will look very strange**

## 3.2 Vector formats in code

### Requested statistics vector format:

List<structure id,  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ , List<statistic requested, query value, volume presentation, dose presentation>>

An example list of requested statistics using the above format is shown in Table IV.

Table IV: Example set of requested statistics.

Entry #	Static			Dynamic			
Entry 1	bladder	3.0	Dose at Volume (Gy)	2.0	absolute volume	absolute dose	
Entry 2	bowel	3.0	Dose at Volume (Gy)	2.0	absolute volume	absolute dose	
			Volume (cc)	0.0	absolute volume	absolute dose	
Entry 3	ctv	10.0	Dose at Volume (Gy)	98.0	relative volume	absolute dose	
			Dose at Volume (Gy)	90.0	relative volume	absolute dose	
			Volume at Dose (%)	100.0	relative volume	relative dose	
			Volume at Dose (%)	200.0	relative volume	relative dose	

Variables using this format: defaultStats, statsRequest

### Retrieved statistics vector format:

List<structure id,  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ , List<statistic requested, query value, units on query value, List<result>>>

An example for a 4 fraction TnO with 3 fractions completed is shown Table V.

NOTE: THE RETRIEVED STATISTICS ARE **NOT** PROPAGATED FORWARD FOR ALL FRACTIONS IN THE ABOVE VECTOR! That process takes place in the updateStats method of the stats class.

Table V: Example set of requested statistics.

Entry #	Static		Dynamic			
Entry 1	bladder	3.0	Dose at Volume (Gy)	2.0	cc	5.0
						5.6
						5.3
Entry 2	bowel	3.0	Dose at Volume (Gy)	2.0	cc	4.6
						4.3
						4.8
Entry 3	ctv	10.0	Dose at Volume (Gy)	98.0	%	6.0
						5.9
						5.7
			Dose at Volume (Gy)	90.0	%	7.0
						7.0
						6.8
			Volume at Dose (%)	100.0	%	90.0
						90.1
						87.9
			Volume at Dose (%)	200.0	%	25.3
						22.8
						17.7

Variables using this format: statsResults