Monitor Unit Calculations



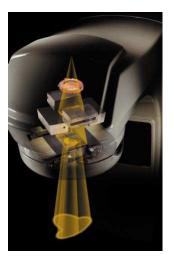


Photon Beam Dose Calculations



- Having a clear understanding of the factors that affect radiation therapy delivery is extremely important
- Small changes in the treatment parameters can change the absorbed dose delivered to the patient
- A field size, treatment depth, or distance set incorrectly will change the machine output in reference to the patient
- This lecture will focus on the practice application of dose calculations





Monitor Unit Calculations

• The general equation for performing monitor unit calculations (*or treatment time*) can be represented as follows

- The Monitor Units (*MUs*) represent the setting on the linear accelerator
- The dose at a point represents the prescribed dose





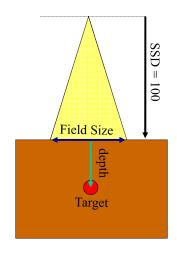
Photon Beam Dose Calculations

Monitor Unit Calculations

- There are three general points necessary when performing a MU calculation
 - 1. One must know the dose at a point
 - 2. One must know the dose rate at that point
 - 3. The dose and the dose rate must be in the same medium (water)







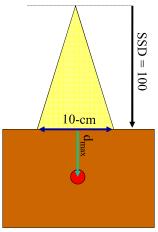
SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

- An SSD setup occurs when the patient's skin surface is setup at the machine isocenter (*typically* at 100-cm)
- For SSD setups, the field size is defined on the patients surface
- Percent depth dose (PPD) tables are used to ratio the dose rate from one depth to another
- Must determine the calibration point for the machine





Photon Beam Dose Calculations



1 cGy = 1 MU @ SSD + dmax

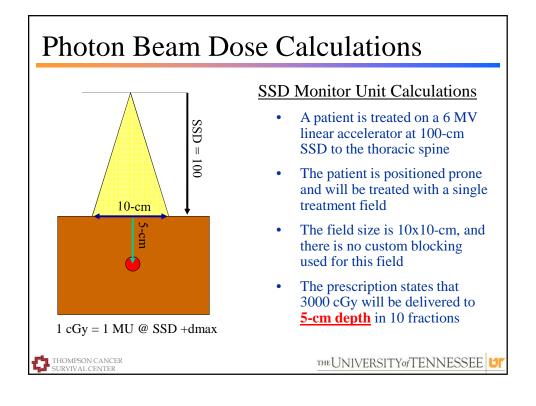
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SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

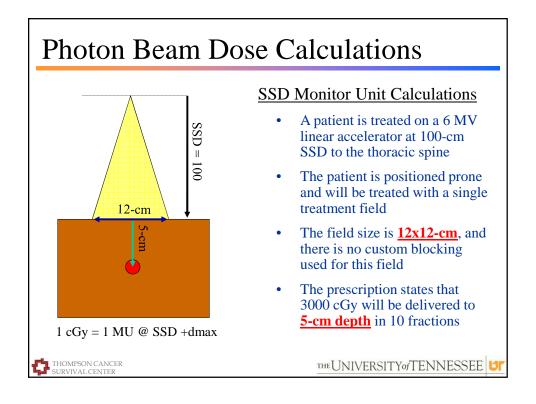
- A patient is treated on a 6 MV linear accelerator at 100-cm SSD to the thoracic spine
- The patient is positioned prone and will be treated with a single treatment field
- The field size is 10x10-cm, and there is no custom blocking used for this field
- The prescription states that 3000 cGy will be delivered to d_{max} in 10 fractions

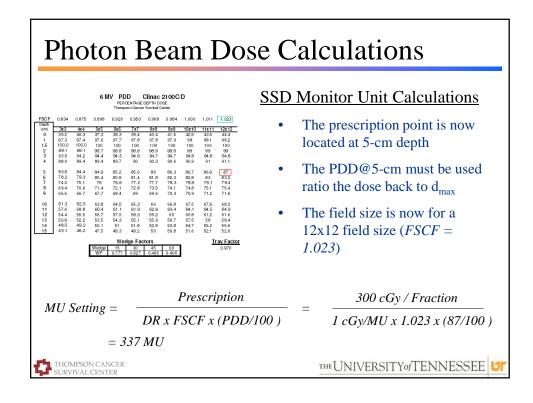


Photon Beam Dos	se Calculations
6 MV PDD Clinac 2100C/D PERCENTAGE DEPTH DOSE	SSD Monitor Unit Calculations
FSCF 0.834	 This is the most basic monitor unit calculation The prescription point is located at d_{max}, which is also the calibration point Furthermore, the field size is the reference field size
$MU Setting = \frac{Prescription}{DR x FSCF x (PDD)}$ $= 300 MU$	$\frac{300 cGy / Fraction}{1 cGy / MU x 1.0 x (100 / 100)}$
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Photon Beam Dose Calculations			
FRICE FRIC		 SSD Monitor Unit Calculations The prescription point is now located at 5-cm depth The PDD@5-cm must be used ratio the dose back to d_{max} The field size is the reference field size (FSCF = 1) 	
MU Setting = ${D}$ = 346 M	Prescription PR x FSCF x (PDD/AU)	$\frac{300 cGy / Fraction}{1 cGy/MU x 1.0 x (86.7/100)}$ THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE	





SSD = 100



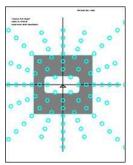
Patient Setup

1 cGy = 1 MU @ SSD + dmax

SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

- A patient is treated on a 6 MV linear accelerator at 100-cm SSD to the thoracic spine
- The patient is positioned prone and will be treated with a single treatment field
- The field size is <u>12x12-cm</u>, and there are small cerobend "corner blocks" for this field
- The prescription states that 3000 cGy will be delivered to 5-cm depth in 10 fractions







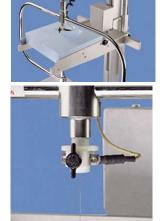


Custom Blocks

- Cerrobend is a metal used for designing custom field shapes for radiation therapy
- It contains 50.0% bismuth, 26.7% lead, 13.3% tin, and 10.0% cadmium
- Cerrobend melts at 70° C and is safer to use than lead, which melts at 327° C
- However, cadmium is toxic and can get into the blood stream
- For most megavoltage beams, a thickness of 7.5-cm is used, which is equivalent to 6-cm of lead

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Photon Beam Dose Calculations





Blocks must be attached to trays, which attenuate the beam



Photon Beam Dose Calculations **SSD Monitor Unit Calculations** 6 MV PDD Clinac 2100C/D PERCENTAGE DEPTH DOSE Therefore Concer Survival Conter A tray factor must now be used (TF = 0.970)The PDD@5-cm must be used ratio the dose back to d_{max} The field size is now for a 12x12 field size (FSCF = 1.023) Prescription 300 cGy / Fraction MU Setting = DR x FSCF x (PDD/100) x TF $1 cGy/MU \times 1.023 \times (87/_{100}) \times 0.97$ $= 348 \, MU$

Photon Beam Dose Calculations

SSD = 100

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Patient Setup

1 cGy = 1 MU @ SSD + dmax

SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

 A patient is treated on a 6 MV linear accelerator at 100-cm SSD to the thoracic spine

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- The patient is positioned prone and will be treated with a single treatment field
- The field size is <u>12x12-cm</u>, and there are small <u>MLC</u> "corner blocks" for this field
- The prescription states that 3000 cGy will be delivered to 5-cm depth in 10 fractions









Multileaf Collimator

- A multileaf collimator (*MLC*) system customizes the field shape using individual leaf pairs
- Each leaf is independently positioned using drive motors
- MLC system eliminate the use of Cerrobend blocks for photon beam fields
- The transmission is typically 1 to 2 percent of the primary beam dose
- MLC width at isocenter ranges from 0.3 to 1.0-cm





Photon Beam Dose Calculations

6 MV PDD Clinac 2100C/D

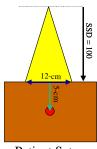
SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

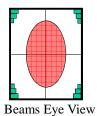
- MLC's modify the shape of the field, but do not have a factor
- The PDD@5-cm must be used ratio the dose back to d_{max}
- The field size is now for a 12x12 field size (FSCF = 1.023)

Prescription 300 cGy / Fraction MU Setting = $DR \times FSCF \times (PDD/100)$ 1 cGy/MU x 1.023 x (87/100) = 337 MU









Patient Setup

1 cGy = 1 MU @ SSD + dmax

SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

- A patient is treated on a 6 MV linear accelerator at 100-cm SSD to the lumbar spine
- The patient is positioned prone and will be treated with a single treatment field
- The field size is <u>5x12-cm</u>, and there are small <u>MLC</u> "<u>corner</u> blocks" for this field
- The prescription states that 3000 cGy will be delivered to 5-cm depth in 10 fractions





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Photon Beam Dose Calculations

6 MV PDD Clinac 21 00 C/D

SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

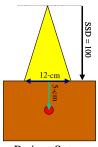
• The equivalent square field size must be calculated:

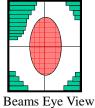
$$EqSq = \frac{2(length \cdot width)}{length + width}$$
$$= \frac{2(5 \cdot 12)}{5 + 12} = 7.1-cm$$

$$MU \ Setting = \frac{Prescription}{DR \ x \ FSCF \ x \ (PDD/100 \)} = \frac{300 \ cGy \ / \ Fraction}{1 \ cGy \ / MU \ x \ 0.95 \ x \ (85.6/100 \)}$$

$$= 369 \ MU$$







Patient Setup

1 cGy = 1 MU @ SSD + dmax

SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

- A patient is treated on a 6 MV linear accelerator at 100-cm SSD to the lumbar spine
- The patient is positioned prone and will be treated with a single treatment field
- The field size is <u>8x12-cm</u>, and the <u>MLC</u> is used to block the right kidney
- The prescription states that 3000 cGy will be delivered to 5-cm depth in 10 fractions





Photon Beam Dose Calculations

6 MV PDD Clinac 2100C/D

SSD Monitor Unit Calculations

• The blocked square field size must be calculated:

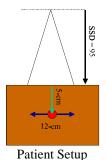
$$EqSq = \frac{2(length \cdot width)}{length + width}$$
$$= \frac{2(8 \cdot 12)}{8 + 12} = 9.6 \cdot cm$$

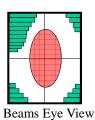
$$BlSq = EqSq \cdot SQRT (\%Open/100)$$
$$= 9.6 \cdot SQRT (80/100) = 8.6 \cdot cm$$

$$MU Setting = \frac{Prescription}{DR x FSCF x (PDD/100)} = \frac{300 cGy / Fraction}{1 cGy/MU x 0.992 x (86.2/100)}$$

$$= 351 MU$$







 $1 \text{ cGy} = 1 \text{ MU } \text{ @ SAD } (d_{\text{max}})$

SAD Monitor Unit Calculations

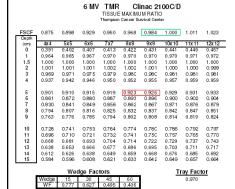
- A patient is treated on a 6 MV linear accelerator at 100-cm **SAD** to the lumbar spine
- The patient is positioned prone and will be treated with a single treatment field
- The field size is 8x12-cm, and the **MLC** is used to block the right kidney
- The prescription states that 3000 cGy will be delivered to **5-cm depth** in 10 fractions

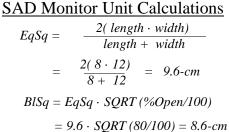






Photon Beam Dose Calculations





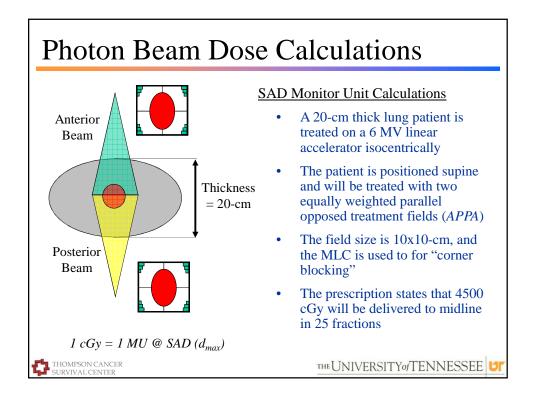
TMR tables are used for isocentric calculations

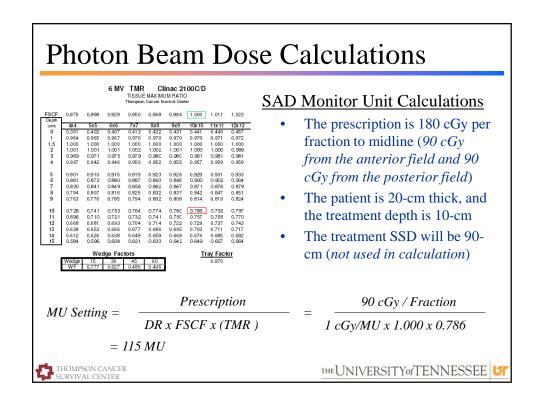
$$MU Setting = \frac{Prescription}{DR x FSCF x (TMR)}$$

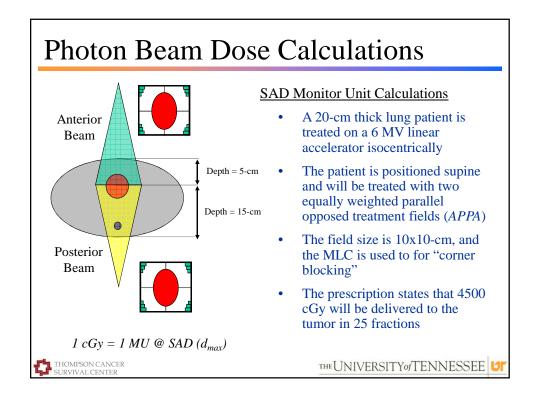
 $= 327 \, MU$

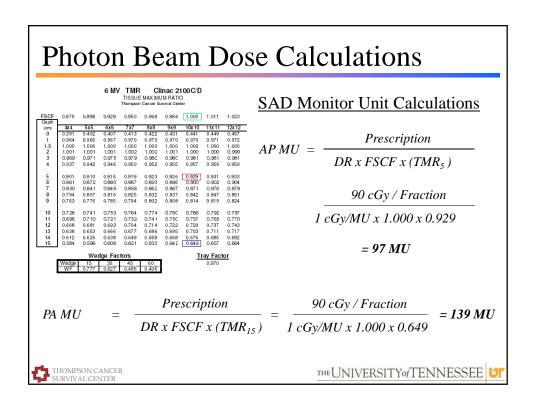
300 cGy / Fraction 1 cGy/MU x 0.992 x 0.925

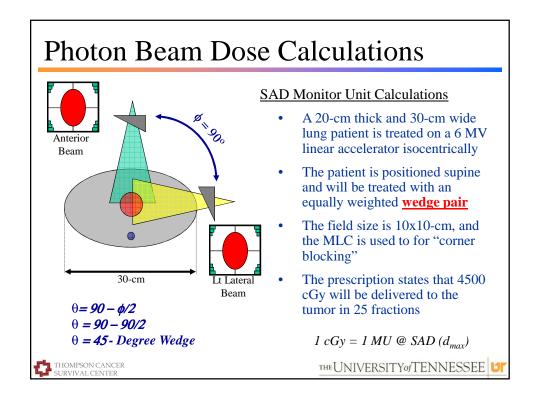


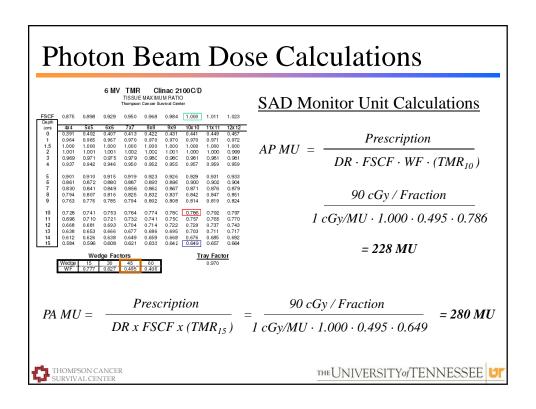


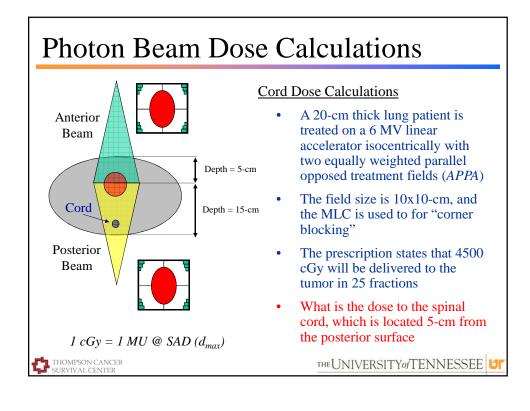


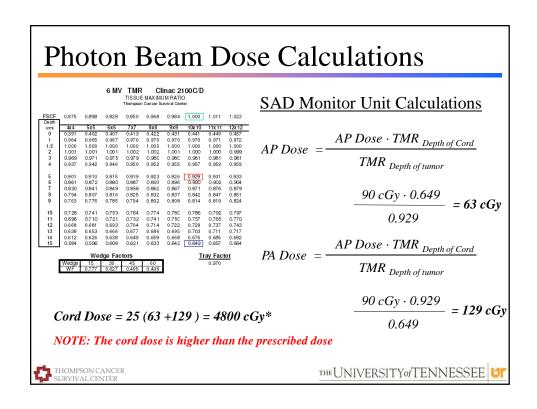




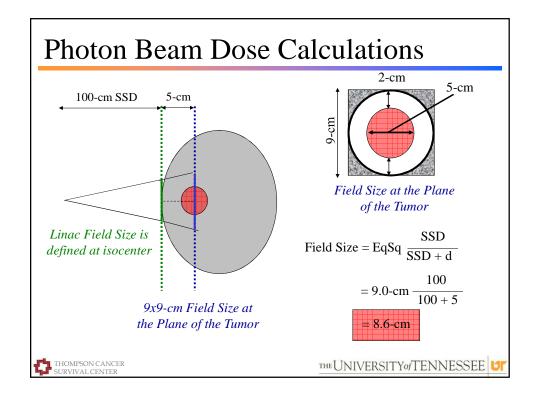


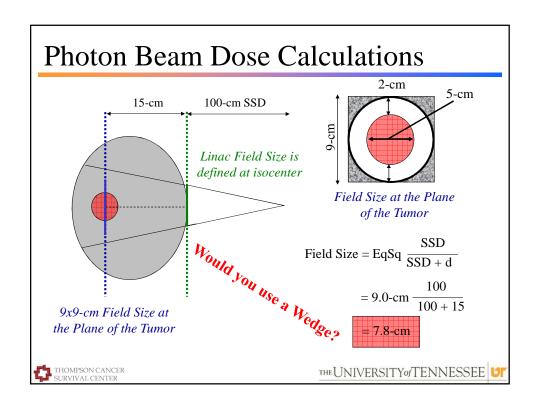


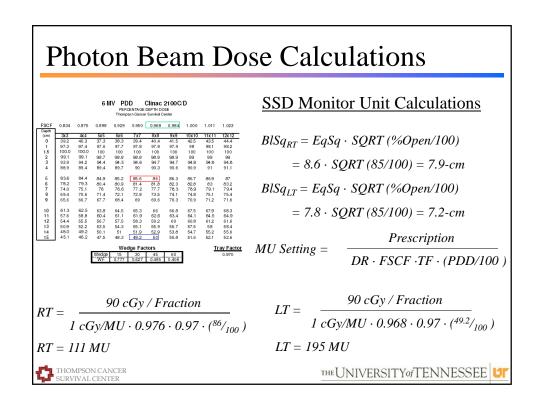


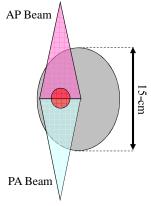


Photon Beam Dose Calculations **SSD Field Size Determination** 5-cm A patient has brain spherical tumor located in the right hemisphere According to the MRI report, the tumor is 5-cm in diameter Rt Lateral Lt Lateral The prescription states that 4500 Beam Beam cGy will be delivered to the tumor in 25 fractions The setup is for opposed 6 MV 15-cm fields Assuming an SSD setup, what is 1 cGy = 1 MU @ SSD + dmaxfield size and monitor units for each field THOMPSON CANCER SURVIVAL CENTER THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE









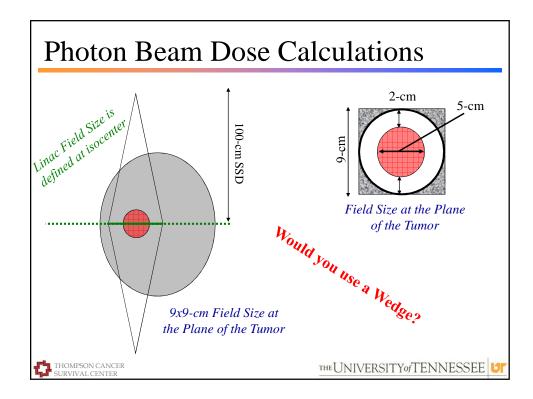
 $1 cGy = 1 MU @ SAD(d_{max})$

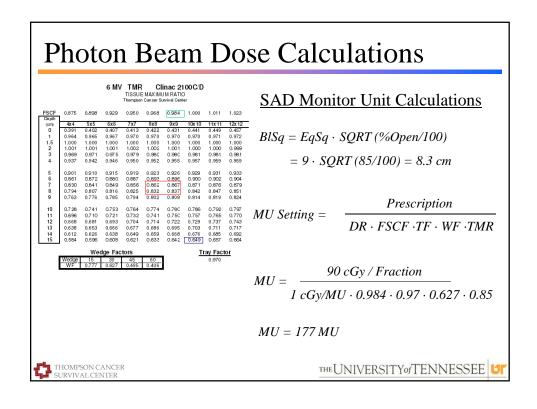
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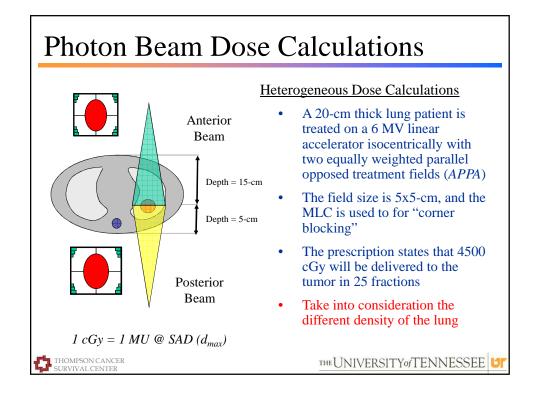
SAD Field Size Determination

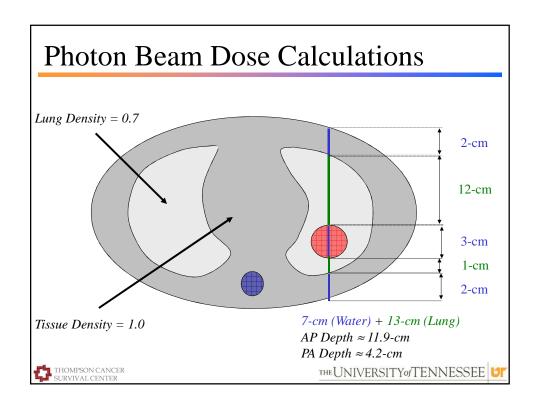
- A patient has brain spherical tumor located in the right hemisphere
- According to the MRI report, the tumor is 5-cm in diameter
- The prescription states that 4500 cGy will be delivered to the tumor in 25 fractions
- The setup is for opposed 6 MV fields
- Assuming an SAD setup, what is field size and monitor units for each field

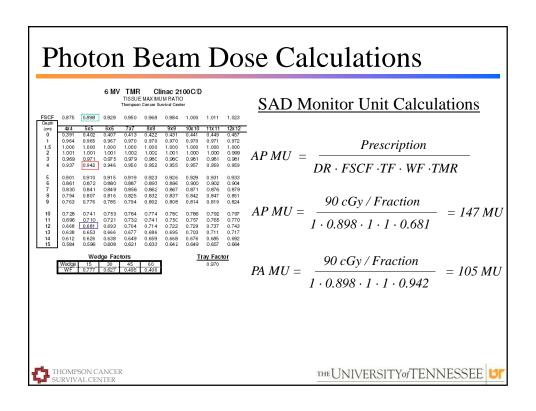


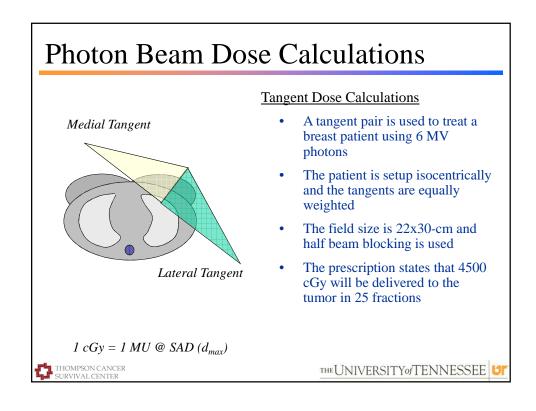


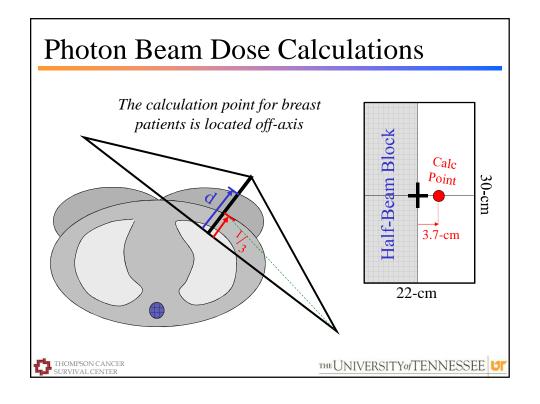


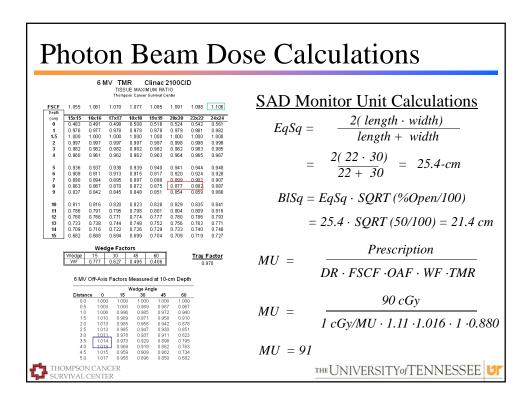


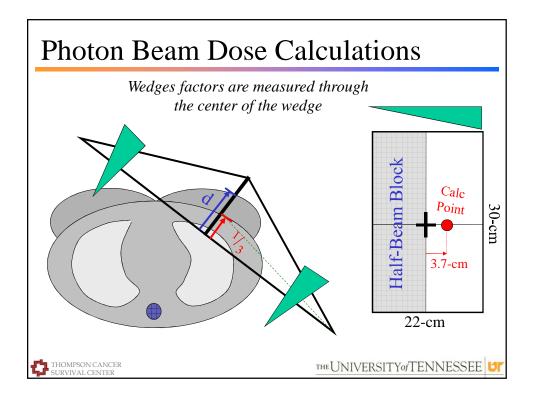


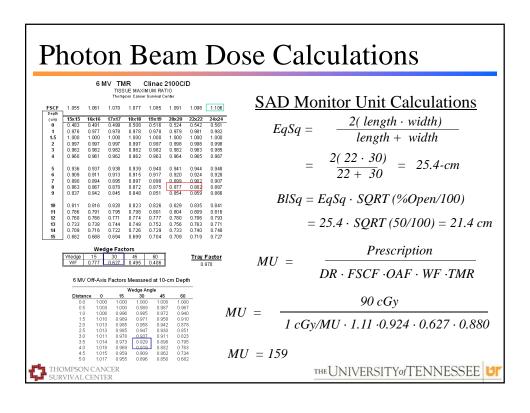


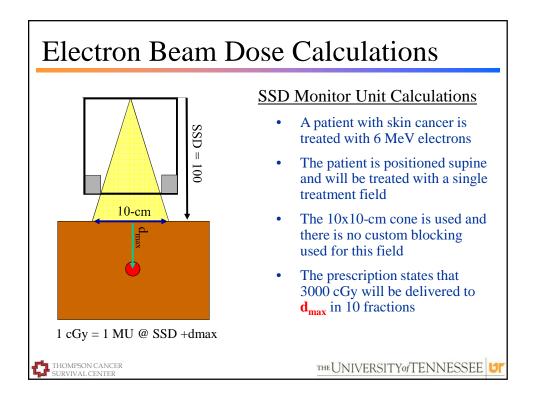












Electron Beam Dose Calculations 6 MeV Electron PDD **Monitor Unit Calculations** 0.60 0.80 0.98 0.98 1.00 1.01 1.01 1.01 1.6 circ. 212 3 circ. 4 circ. 986 10x10 15x15 20x20 25x25 73.9 72.7 73.5 74.6 75.3 76.7 77.7 77.0 77.6 77.9 20.6 81.6 81.1 81.3 81.3 89.9 85.7 85.2 85.6 85.3 91.8 90.1 89.3 90.2 89.6 Electron monitor units are the simplest to calculate Electrons treatments are typically prescribed to d_{max} In most cases, you only need to divide by the Field Size **Correction Factor** Prescription 200 cGy / Fraction MU Setting = *DR x FSCF x (PDD/100)* $1 \ cGy/MU \ x \ 1.0 \ x \ (100/100 \)$ $= 200 \, MU$

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