

Evaluation of dosimetry parameters of photons and electron beams using a linear ionization chamber array

José A. Bencomo,^{*} Geoffrey Ibbott,[†] Seungsoo Lee[‡], and Joao A. Borges[§]

*Department of Radiation Physics. University of Texas-M.D. Anderson
Cancer Center*

1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77030

This work was supported by PHS grant CA 10953 awarded by the NCI, DHHS and SYNCOR Radiation Management Systems, Inc, Cleveland, OH who Provided the Thebes II System for Evaluation

Abstract

The accuracy and precision of two ionization chamber linear-arrays (Thebes II models 7020, and 7040, Therapy Beam Evaluation Systems, Victoreen, Inc. Cleveland Ohio) were used to acquire photon and electron beam dosimetry data for a Clinac 2100C linear accelerator. Measurements of ionization were made for 6 MV and 18 MV photon energies and for 6 to 18 MeV electron energies. All evaluations reflect the measurements performed by RPC physicists during a routine on-site dosimetry review audit of institutions involved in NCI cooperative group clinical trials. Data collected included open beam profiles (off-axis factors, field flatness, and symmetry), percentage depth dose, hard wedge profiles, dynamic wedge profiles. Beam profiles were obtained using field sizes of 6 to 40 cm² at 100 cm SSD and at depths of d_{\max} to 20 cm. Data were obtained in polystyrene and acrylic phantoms and were repeated in a 33 x 33-x 33-cm water phantom. At least five measurements were performed for each beam configuration. All measurements were compared with data acquired using a Wellhofer beam scanning system (model WP700 (v3.51.00) and Wellhofer IC04 ion chamber) and ion chamber point measurements. Results show that the accuracy and precision of the Thebes II devices were comparable to the ion chamber-electrometer system. The Thebes II is a practical device that could facilitate data acquisition during the RPC's institution audits.

Introduction

The 3-dimensional treatment-planning and delivery process is very complex for both irregularly shaped and large tumors. Several new automatic tools have been developed for the treatment planning process to take advantage of the powerful capabilities of the new linear accelerator technology. The advent of new radiation therapy delivery techniques such as the use of dynamic wedges, and 3D conformal techniques, stereotatic radiosurgery, thomotherapy, and intensity modulated radiotherapy in the early 1990s, and nowadays dynamic targeting radiotherapy have increased the need for quality control of radiation treatments. The required dose delivery accuracy and reproducibility have made it necessary to develop new quality control (QC) tools and devices to warrant that the dose delivered to tumor and normal tissues is the dose prescribed and planned. Among these new quality QC devices are diode arrays, ionization chamber arrays and real time beam profilers.

Introduction (cont.)

The specific aim of the Radiological Physics Center (RPC) and other quality assurance centers in the USA includes providing QA reviews of treatment planning and verification data used in the radiotherapy treatment of patient entered in the National Cancer Institute (NCI) clinical trials particularly those using advanced treatment modalities. The RPC monitors the basic dosimetry beam parameters of linear accelerator (i.e., beam outputs, dosimetry data and quality control procedures) utilized by institutions to treat patients entered into the clinical studies. The RPC monitoring is performed through off-site remote monitoring tools and on-site dosimetry review visits. The RPC is developing or utilizing commercial cost effective, reliable and practical devices to meet the QC challenges required by radiotherapy using advanced technology. A feasibility study was conducted to evaluate the utility and usefulness of a newly designed ionization chamber linear array (Thebes II Therapy Beam Evaluation System, Vetoreen, Inc. Cleveland Ohio) for acquiring QC data from institutions participating on the NCI clinical protocols. This device could be used as an off-site remote monitoring data collection device.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

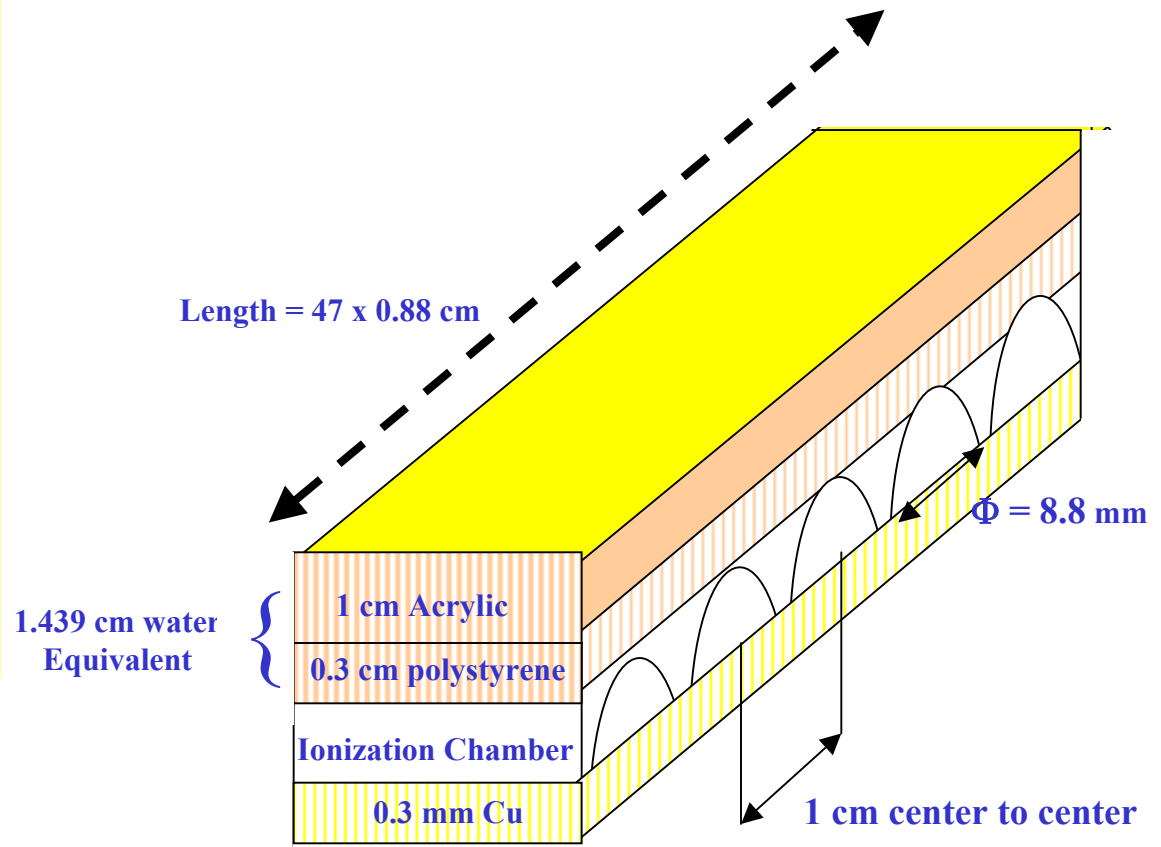
Linear array description

The Victoreen Thebes II consists of a linear ion chamber array, electrometer, communicator, and Contour manager software, An acrylic base plate that holds the ion chamber array and buildup plates. The ion chamber array is permanently connected to an electrometer by a 1.5 m shielded multiconductor cable. This cable allows placing the electrometer away from the radiation beam eliminating radiation damage to the electrometer.

Two detector arrays were used in this study. One was the Model 7020 linear array of 47 waterproof and vented 0.25 cm^3 ion chambers (0.42-cm (w) x 0.95-cm (d) x 0.50-cm (h)) which are separated by 5 mm centers to center. The total length of the array is 23.42 cm and has an active area of 1.0 cm x 23.42 cm, and the other was the Model 7040 have 47 ion chambers (0.88-cm (w) x 0.88-cm (d) x 0.50 cm (h)) that are separated by 1-cm spacing between their centers and a total active length of 46.88 cm, its active area is 0.88 cm x 46.88 cm.

Schematics of Thebes II Model (7040) ionization chamber Array

The waterproof ionization chambers are semi-cylindrical in shape with square collecting plates made of Cu with a thin layer of tin on top. The collecting plate is on the flat side of the cylinder. The point of measurement is approximately 0.755 cm from the surface of the Thebes II system.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

Linear array description (cont.)

The Thebes II devices were calibrated in a ^{60}Co beam by Global Calibration Laboratory (Cleveland, OH). The uncertainty of the calibration is 2.8%, of which 2.0% is due to the uncertainty of the beam. The Reproducibility is 1%, linearity 1% and long terms stability 1%.

Ion chamber devices are the most reliable technology for dose measurements. In comparison with liquid chambers the ion chamber do not have ion transport problems, and in comparison with diode detectors ion chambers are not damaged by radiation. The Thebes II ionization chamber arrays have a range of 50 to 500 cGy/min. The Thebes II devices have an inherent buildup of 5 mm polystyrene, and 0.3 mm polycarbonate. Figures 1a and 1b show the Thebes II model 7020, and the Model 7040 respectively.

The Victoreen Thebes II ion chamber array (Model 7020) is shown in a water tank

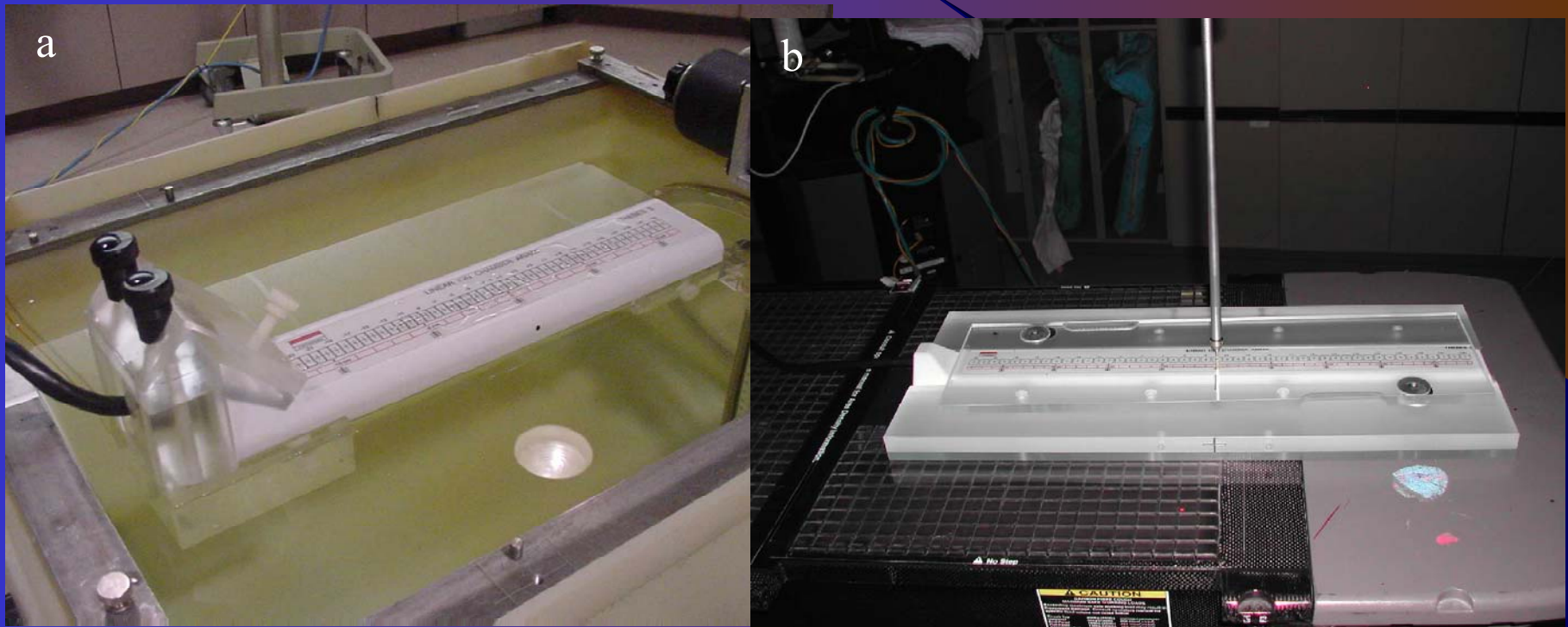


Figure. 2. a. The Victoreen Thebes II ion chamber array (Model 7020) is shown in a water tank. The device is attached to a linear scanner to make measurements at different depths. b. The Victoreen Thebes II ion chamber array (Model 7040) is shown in the acrylic mounting plate.

Measurements

Photon Beam Measurements

Dose Measurements were performed with both Victoreen Thebes II models 7020 and 7040 in a linear accelerator (Clinac 2100C, Varian Inc. Palo Alto, CA) for 6 MV and 18 MV photon energies and for 6, 9, 12, 16, and 18 MeV electron energies. All photon beam and electron beam evaluations reflect the measurements performed by RPC physicists during a routine on-site dosimetry audit. All photon and electron beams outputs of the Clinac 200C linear accelerator were calibrated prior to the irradiation of the linear ion chamber array using the recommendations of the AAPM Task Group 51 protocol.

Data collected include open beam profiles (beam parameters evaluated include off-axis factors, field flatness, and field symmetry); percentage depth dose, hard wedge profiles, and enhanced dynamic wedge profiles. Measurements were performed in an acrylic phantom using both Thebes II models (7020, and 7040), and repeated in a 33 x 33-x 33-cm water phantom with the Thebes II Mode (7030). See figure 1a. At least five measurements were performed for each beam configuration evaluated. The mean and percentage standard deviations are calculated for each data set.

Measurements (1)

Output Factors

Output factors were measured in water at a depth of at depth of maximum dose for square fields of 6, 10, 15, 30, and 40 cm² using both Thebes II Models and compared to data obtained with a Welhoffer IC-06 chamber and a CNMC Model 206 electrometer,

Percentage Depth Dose

Percentage Depth Dose (PDD) was measured in water for square fields sizes of 6,10,15,20,30 and 40 cm² Scans were obtained using the Thebes II (Model 7020) attached to a specially design holder to a mechanical linear scanner. Thebes II data were compared to those data obtained with the Wellhofer model WP700 (v3.51.00) beam data acquisition system with the Welhoffer IC04 ion chambers. PDD were also acquired with both Thebes II models in an acrylic phantom.

Measurements (2)

Open Field Profiles (off-axis factors, field flatness, and symmetry)

Measurements of open beam profiles were obtained with the Thebes II systems for field sizes of 6, 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40 cm² at 100 cm SSD. Measurements were made at depths of d_{\max} , 5, 10, 15, and 20 cm. Data were obtained in an acrylic phantom and in a water phantom. Open field profiles were compared to those measured using the Welhoffer WP700 beam Data Acquisition System with IC04 chambers. Field sizes of 6, 10, 15, 20, 30, and 40 cm² were scanned at depths of 1.5, 12.5, 21, and 35 cm. Because the Thebes II data were acquired at different depth than those obtained with the Welhoffer scanner; for their intercomparison it was necessary to interpolate between Welhoffer data.

Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles

Enhanced Dynamic Wedge (EDW) Profiles were measured using both Thebes II models and compared to data obtained with the Welhoffer WP700 Beam Data Acquisition System and chamber attachment. The following field sizes and wedge combination were scanned; 60 Degree wedge for 20cm x 20 cm, and for 10 cm x 10 cm, and 30 degree wedge for 20cm x 20 cm. Profiles were obtained at the same depths as the open profiles.

Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Factors

Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Factors (EDWF) were measured in acrylic at 1.5-cm depth with both Thebes II models and in water with the Thebes II Model 7020 compared with data obtained in water with the Welhoffer IC-06 chamber and a CNMC Model 206 electrometer. EDWF were measured for 15, 30, 45, and 60 degree wedges and for 6, 10, 15, 20, and 30 cm² field sizes.

Experimental Set Up for measurements in Acrylic

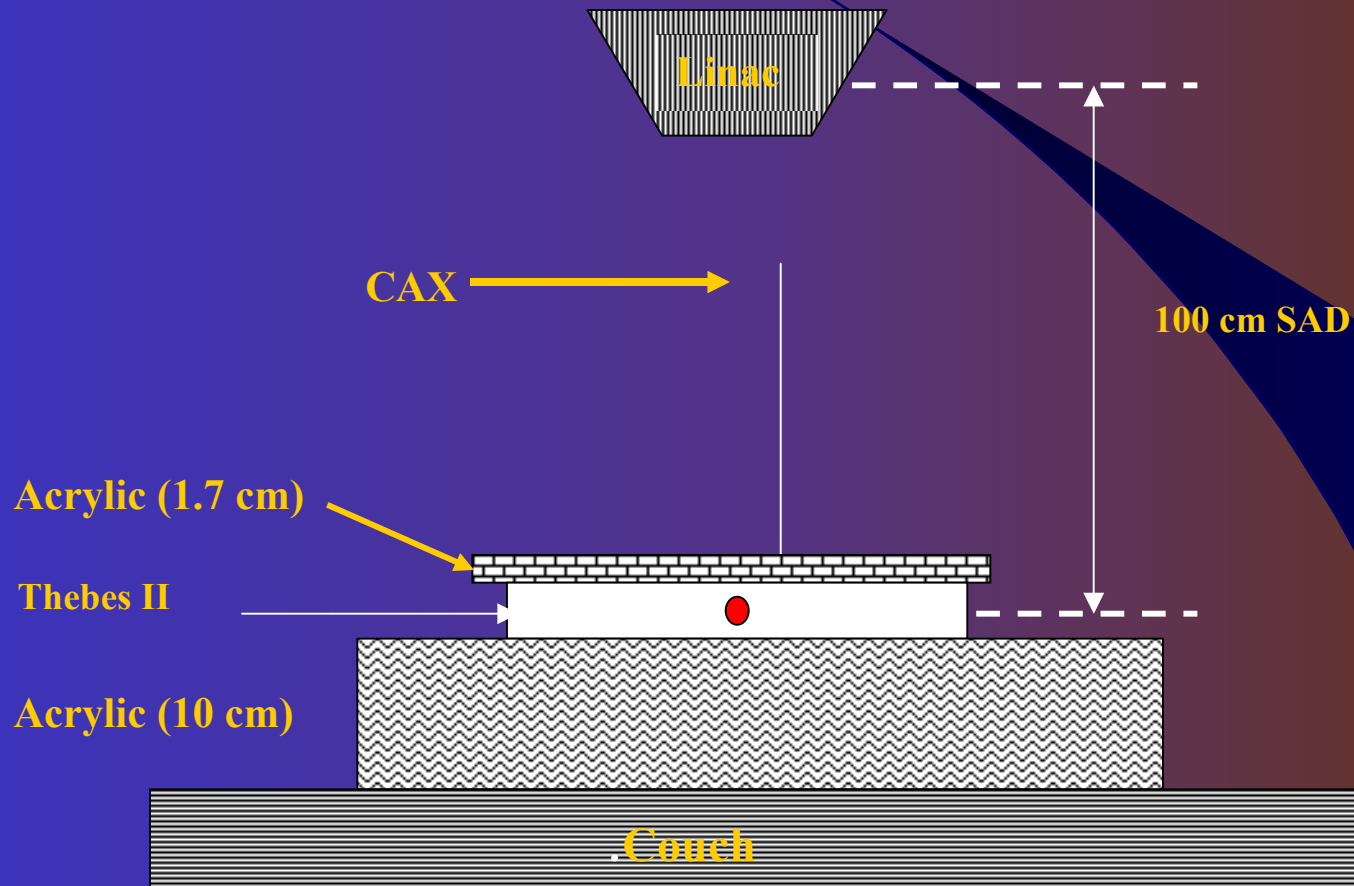


Figure 3. Thebes II system Setup for measurements in Acrylic phantom. Different thickness of Acrylic were used for the PDD measurements.

Electron Beam Measurements

Beam Profiles

Measurements of beam profiles were obtained in an Acrylic phantom (setup shown in figure 3) with both Thebes II systems, and repeated in a water phantom with the Thebes II model 7020. Data were obtained for electron energies of 6, 9, 12, 16 and 18 MeV and for cone sizes of 6, 10, and 15 cm² at 100 cm SSD. Measurements were made at depth of d_{\max}

Percentage Depth Dose Measurements

Measurements were made with both Thebes II models at depths of d_{\max} , and 1.0 cm increments up to 20 cm depth in water and in an Acrylic phantom. PDD were compared to those measured using the Welhoffer WP700 beam Data Acquisition System with IC04 chambers. Cone sizes of 6, 10, and 15 cm² were scanned at 1-cm interval depths up to 20 cm.

Measurements using Thebes II Model 7040 and MOSFET detectors simultaneously

Measurements were performed using the Thebes II Model 7040 and MOSFET detectors using Superflab buildup material of different thickness as shown in figures 4 and figure 5. Data were collected for photons and electron beam energies using the same settings as described in the measurements sections.

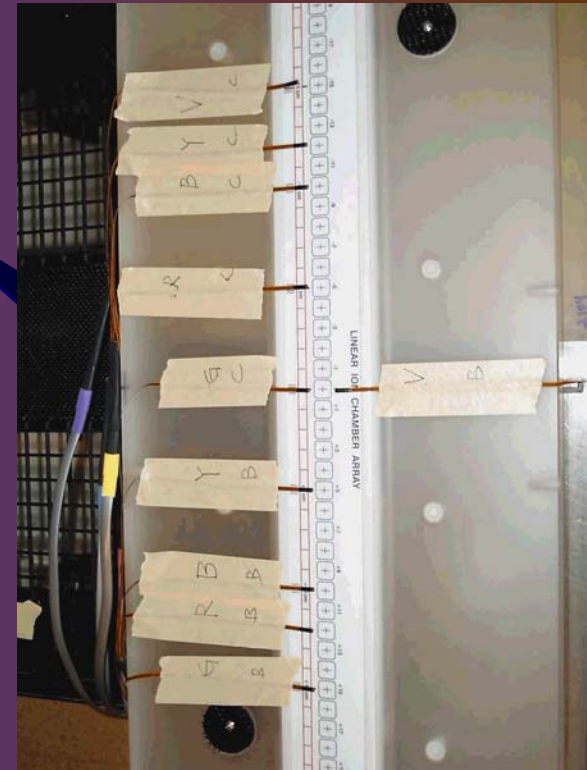
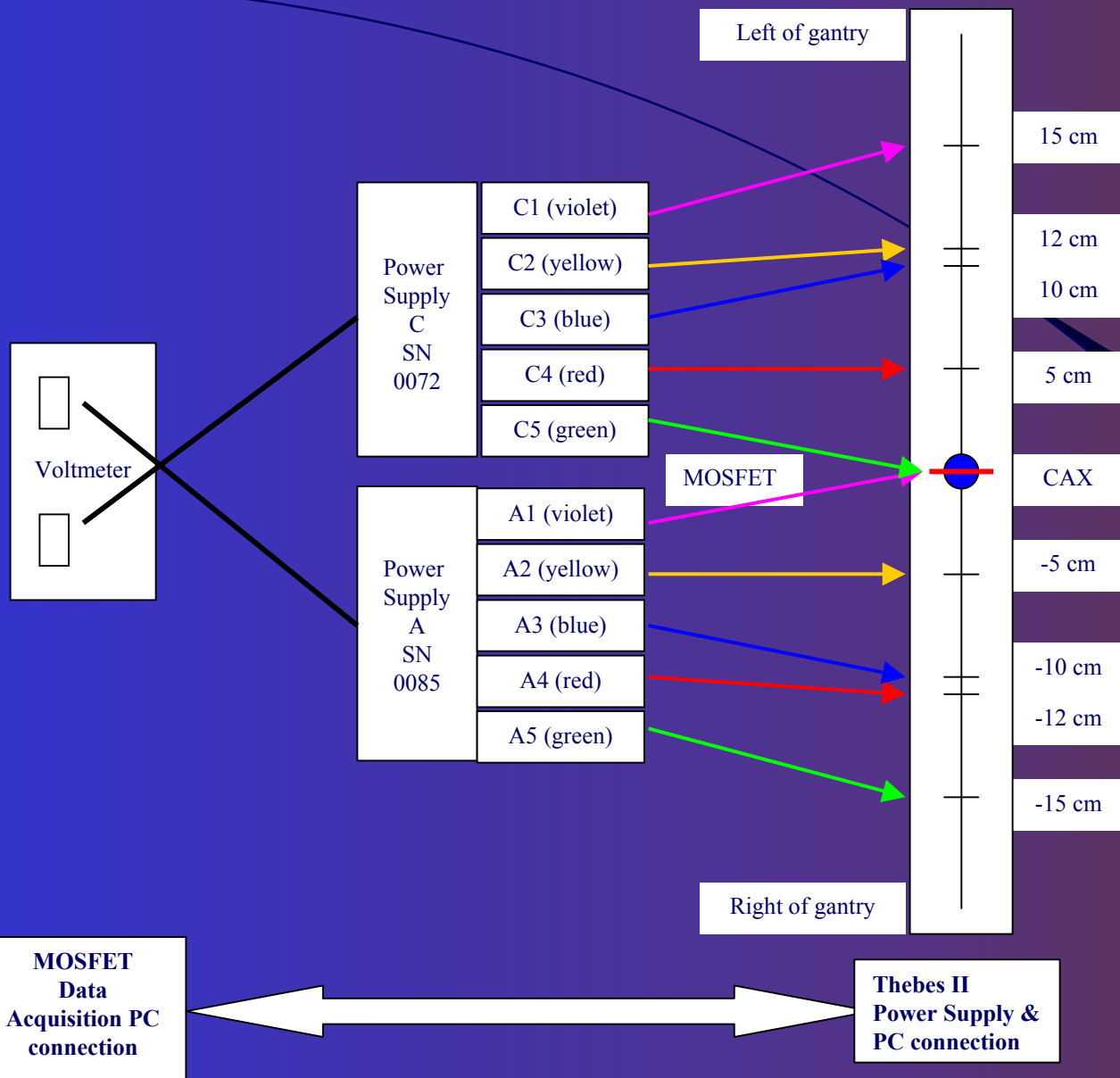


Figure 4. Picture of Thebes II Model 7040 showing the MOSFET detectors attached to its surface.

Table II

This table shows measurements of Off Axis Factors for a Clinac 2100C 18 MV photon beam using the Thebes II System and an Array of MOSFET Dosimeters. Measurements were compared with Ionization Chamber Measurements in Air with a buildup cap.

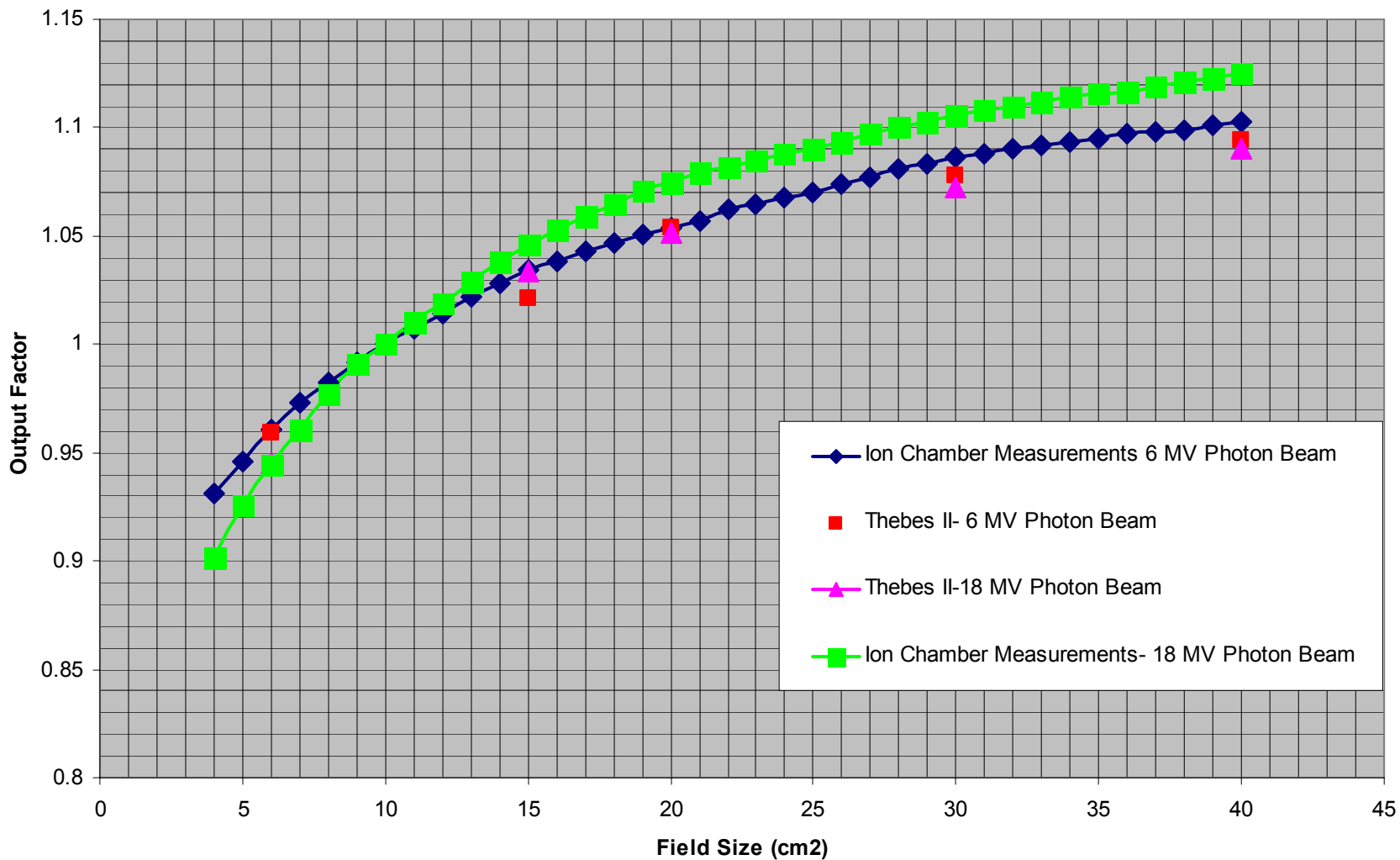
Location	Average	stdev	%stdev	OAF	RPC	Thebes II	OAF		Thebes II
						Rdg	Thebes II	MOSFET/Thebes II	
10 R	181.800	1.924	1.058	1.056	1.040	101.200	1.030	1.025	0.990
5 R	177.000	2.550	1.440	1.028	1.028	100.400	1.021	1.006	0.994
CAX 1	173.800	1.095	0.630	1.009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CAX 2	174.200	1.483	0.851	1.012	174.000	98.300	1.000	1.000	1.000
5L	176.600	1.140	0.646	1.026	1.028	101.200	1.030	0.996	1.001
10L	180.600	2.302	1.275	1.049	1.038	101.600	1.034	1.015	0.996
12L	182.400	2.302	1.262	1.059	0.000	101.800	1.036	1.023	0.000
15L	180.400	2.408	1.335	1.048	1.048	101.300	1.031	1.017	0.983

Table II

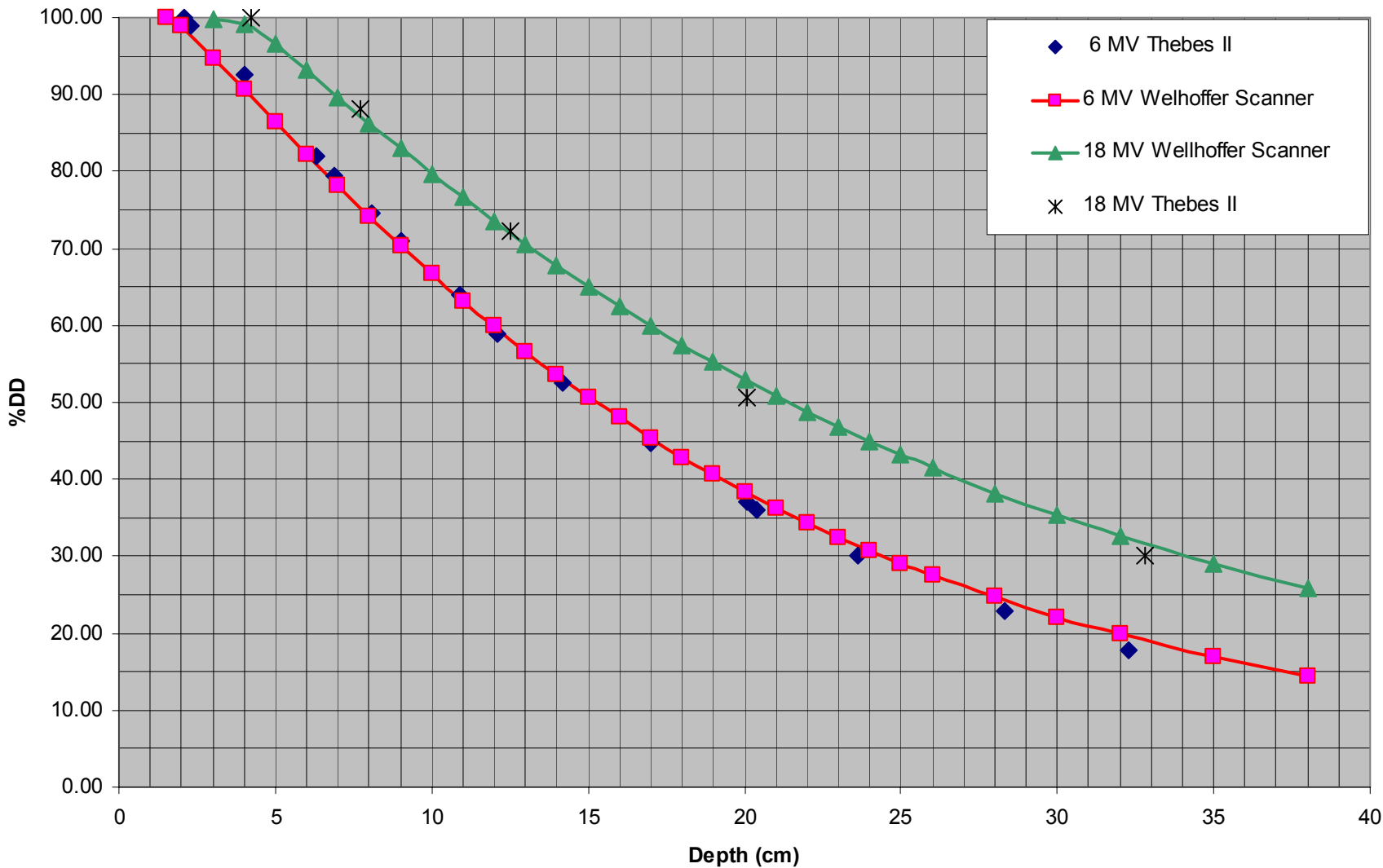
Off-Axis Factors

Off Axis Distance (cm)	MOSFET Long Array			
	Location	40x40	40x40	MOSFET/Thebes II
0	CAX 2	341	100.200	1.000
5	5L	345	102.700	0.987
10	10L	358	103.900	1.012
12	12L	355	104.600	0.997
15	15L	358	104.500	1.007
0	CAX 2	366	104.500	1.000
-5	5L	360	104.500	0.984
-10	10L	364	103.600	1.003
-12	12L	355	102.300	0.991
-15	15L	341	100.200	0.972

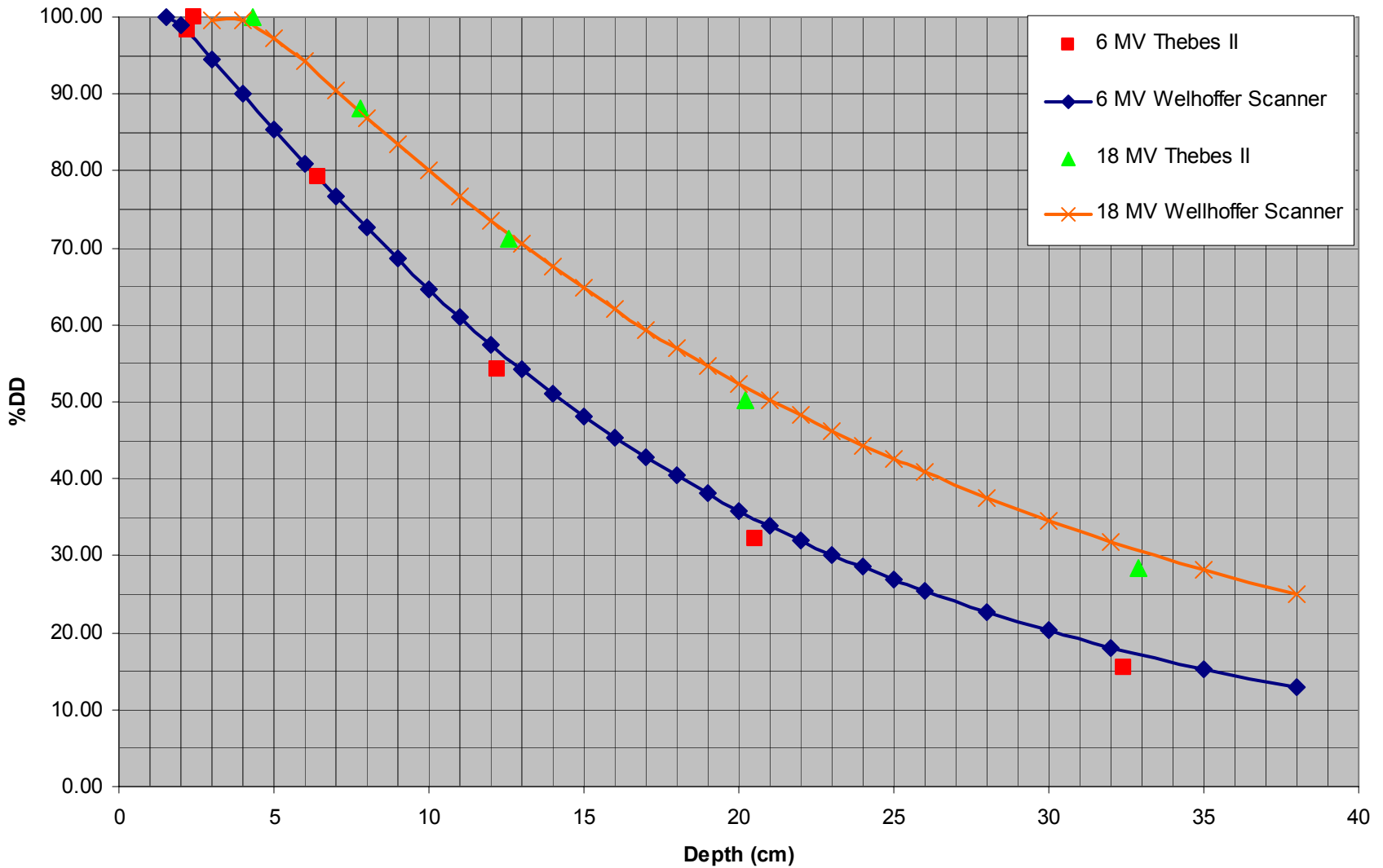
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam Output Factors Determined from Measurement in the Beam Central Axis at Depth of Maximum Dose



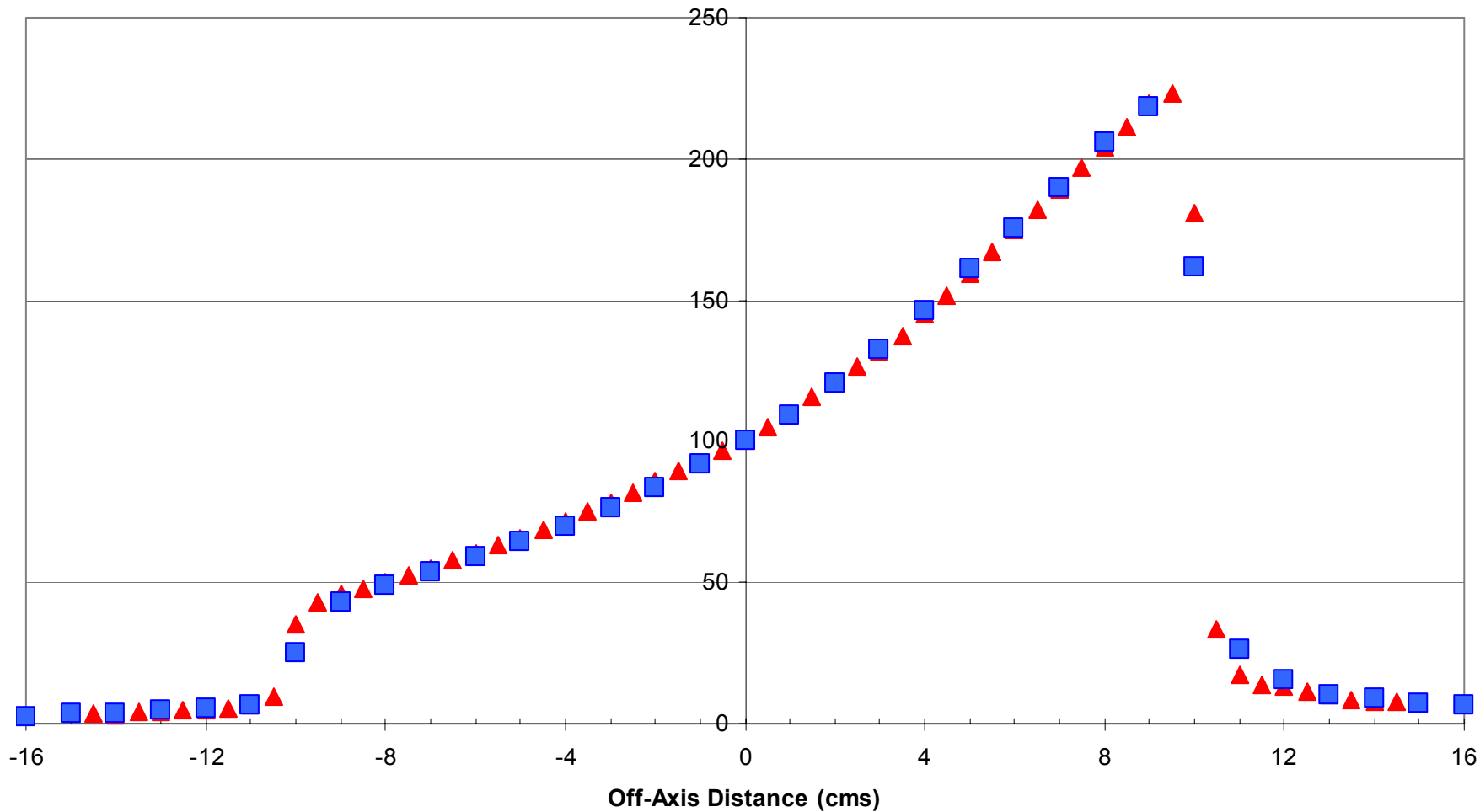
Clinac 2100C Photon Beams 10 cm x 10 cm Field Size at 100 cm SSD



Clinac 2100C Photon Beams 6 cm x 6 cm Field Size at 100 cm SSD

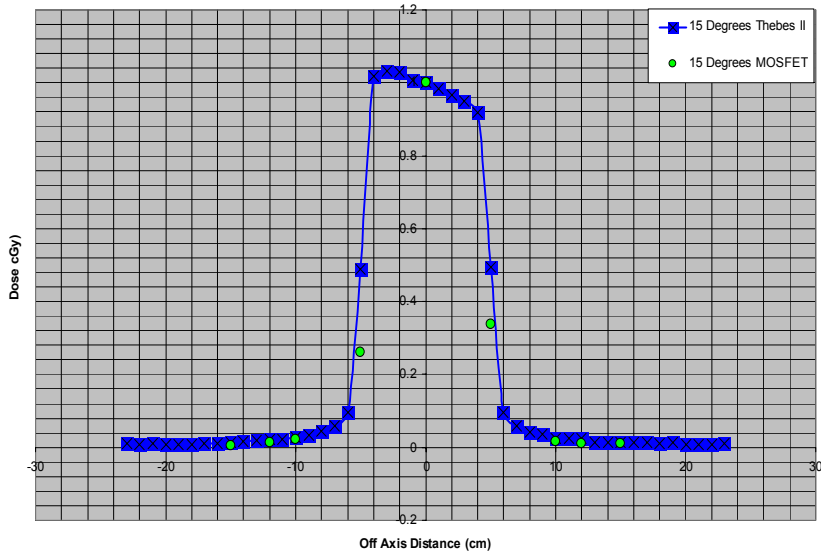


Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
60 degree EDW profile 20 cm x 20 cm @ depth = 1.5 cm, 100 cm SSD

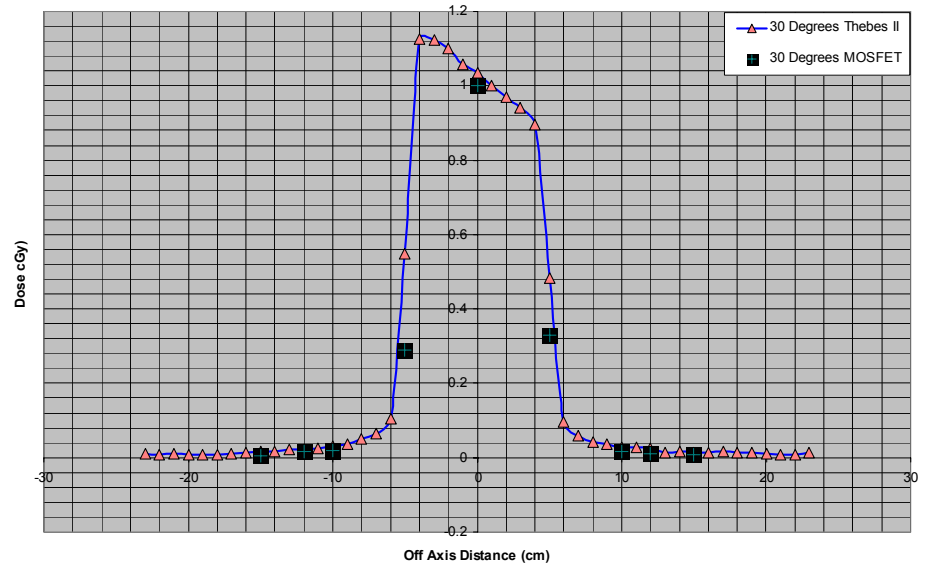


▲ Welhoffer Scanner ■ Thebes II System

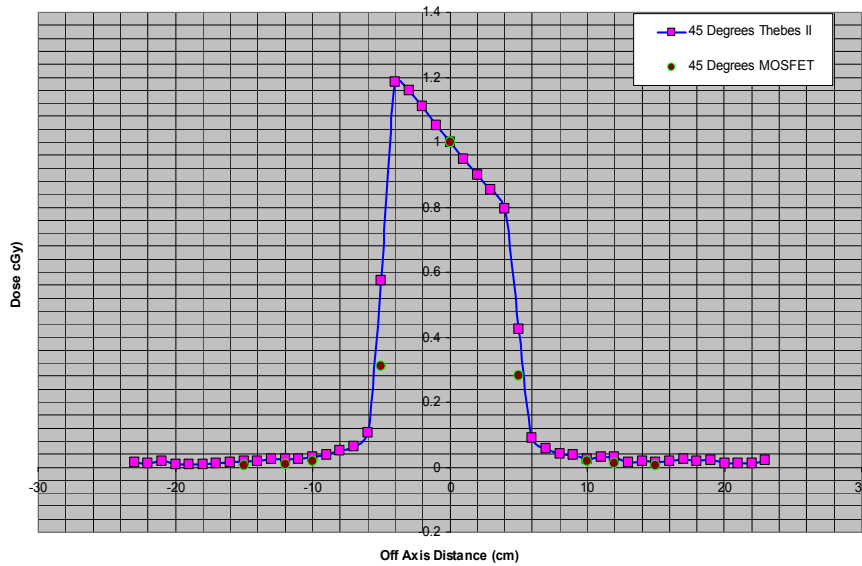
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 10 cm x 10 cm



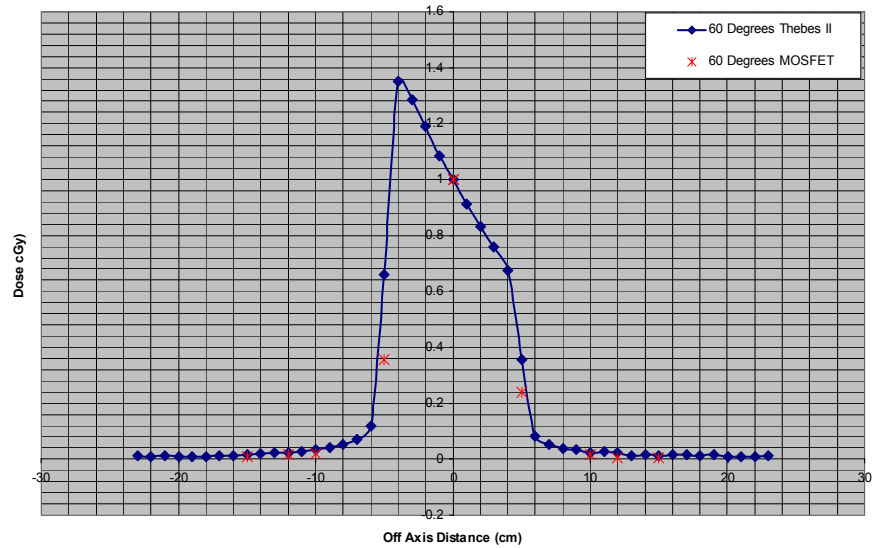
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 10 cm x 10 cm



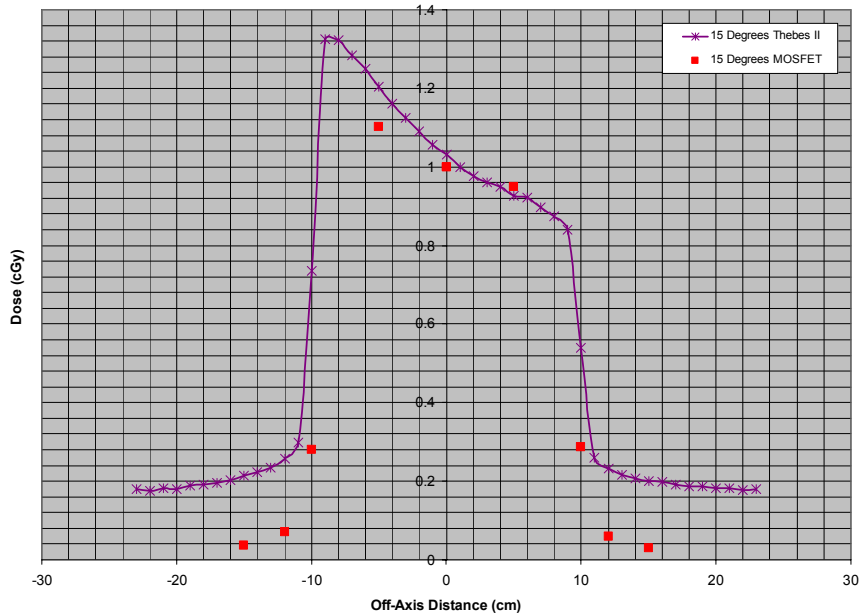
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 10 cm x 10 cm



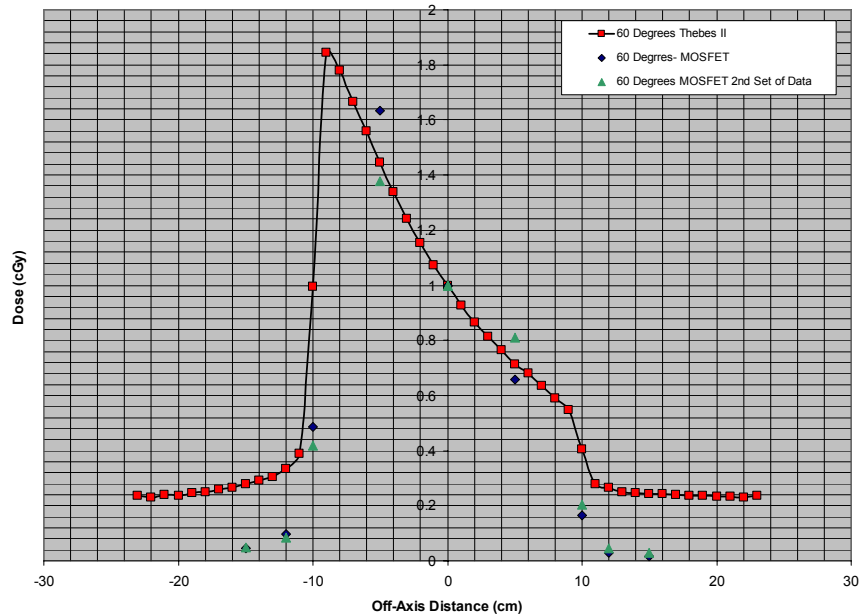
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 10 cm x 10 cm



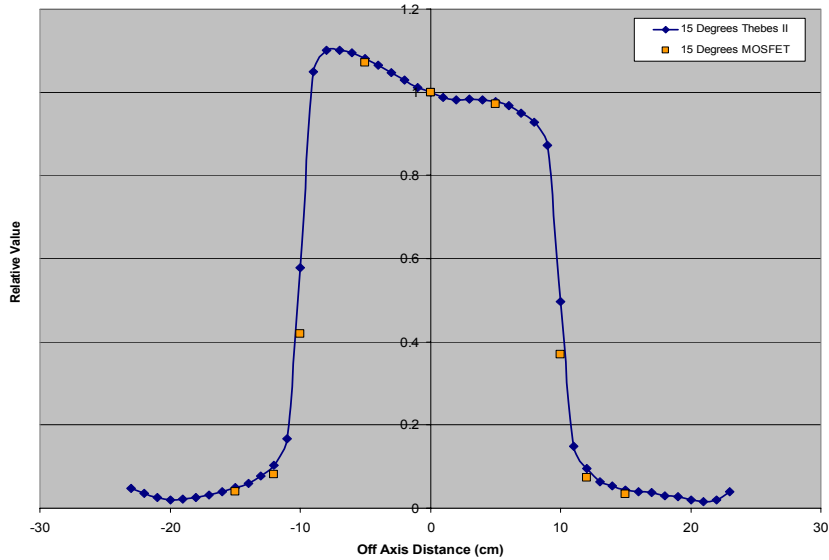
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
Thebes II Dynamic Wedge Profiles 20 cm x 20 cm



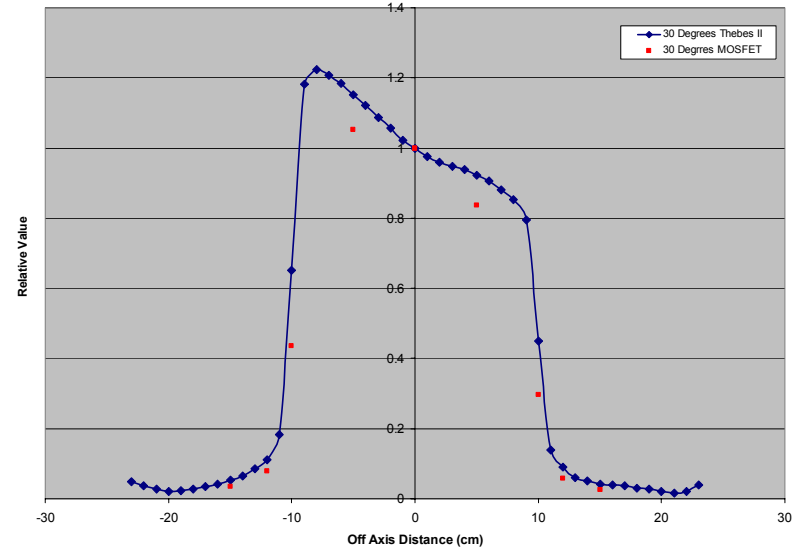
Clinac 2100C 6 MV Photon Beam
Thebes II Dynamic Wedge Profiles 20 cm x 20 cm



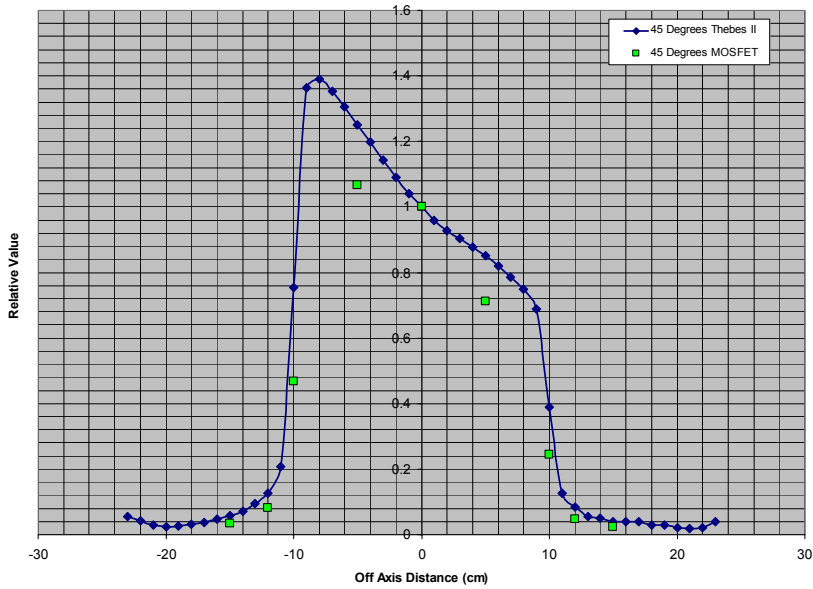
Clinac 2100C 18 MV Photon
Beam Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 20 cm x 20 cm



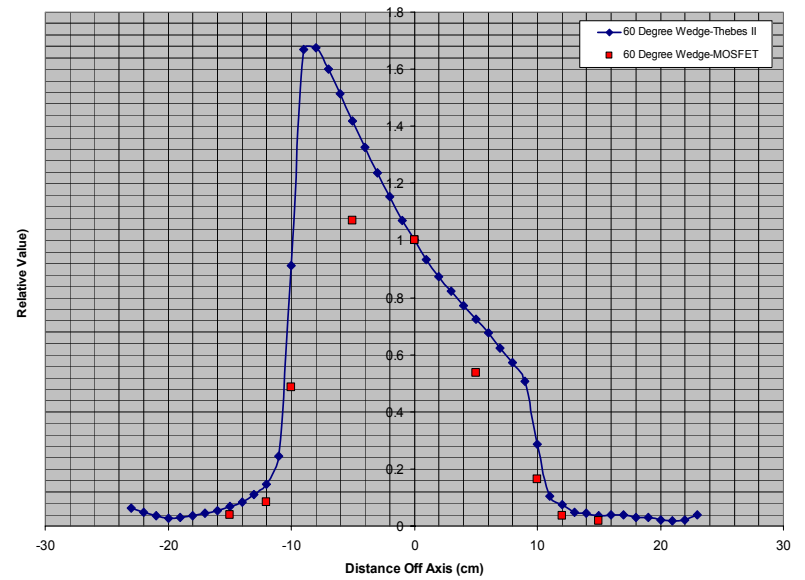
Clinac 2100C 18 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 20 cm x 20 cm



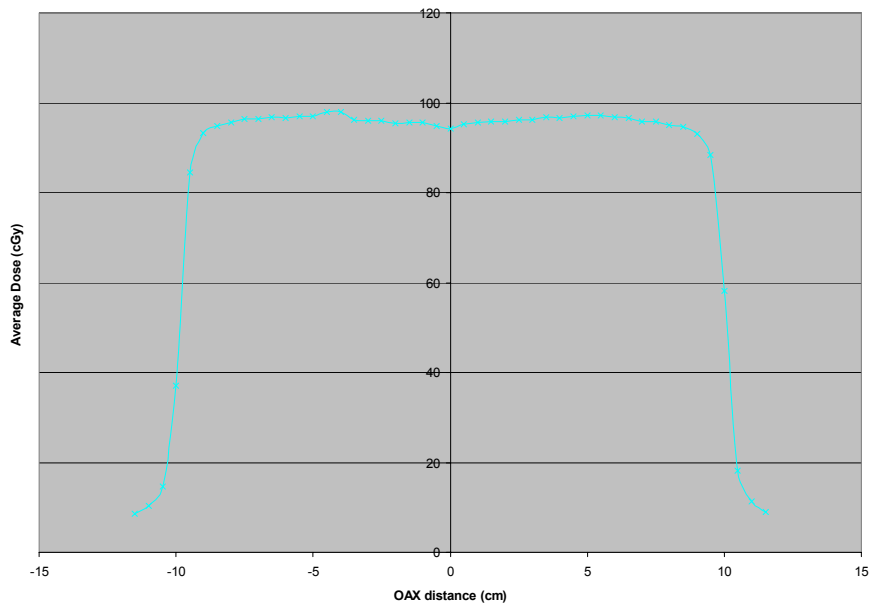
Clinac 2100C 18 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 20 cm x 20 cm



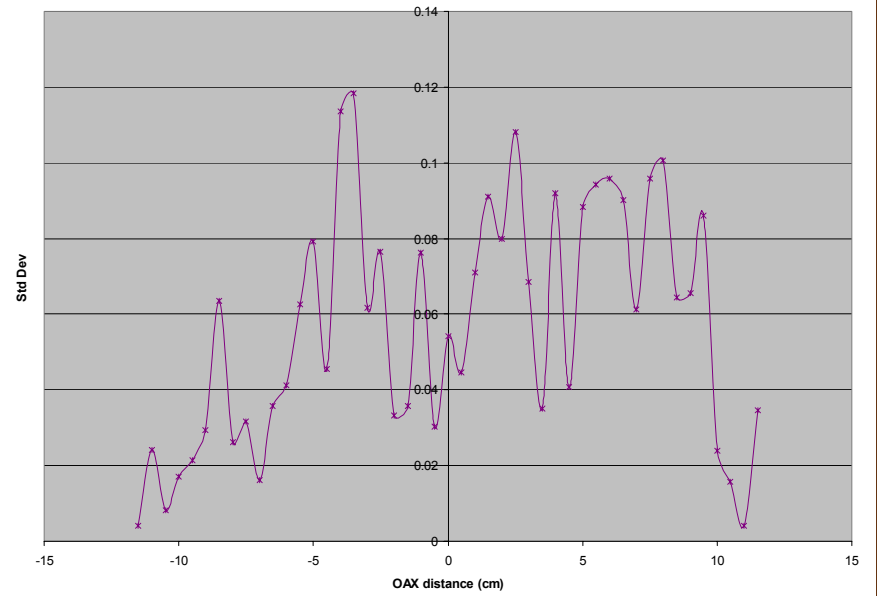
Clinac 2100C 18 MV Photon Beam
Enhanced Dynamic Wedge Profiles 20 cm x 20 cm



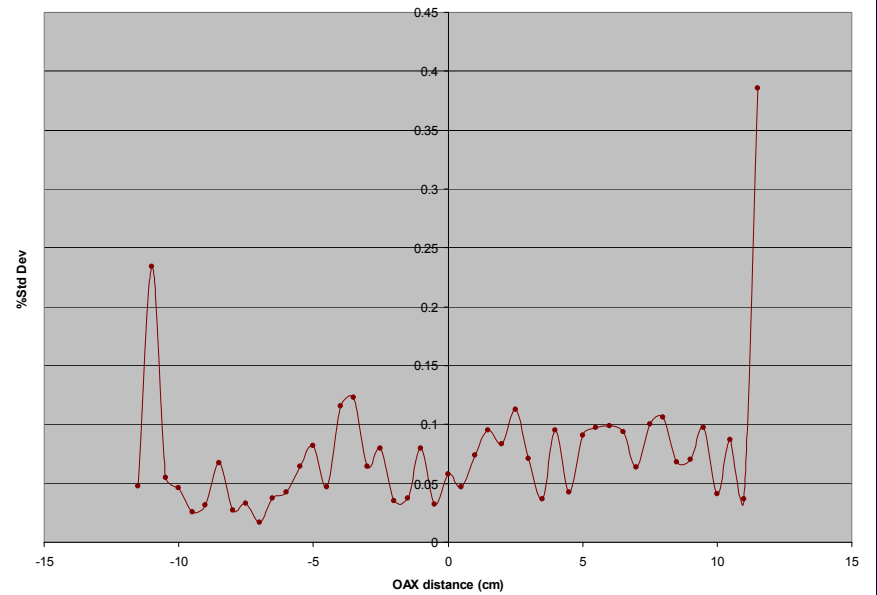
Clinac 2104-6 MV-20x20-100 cm SAD



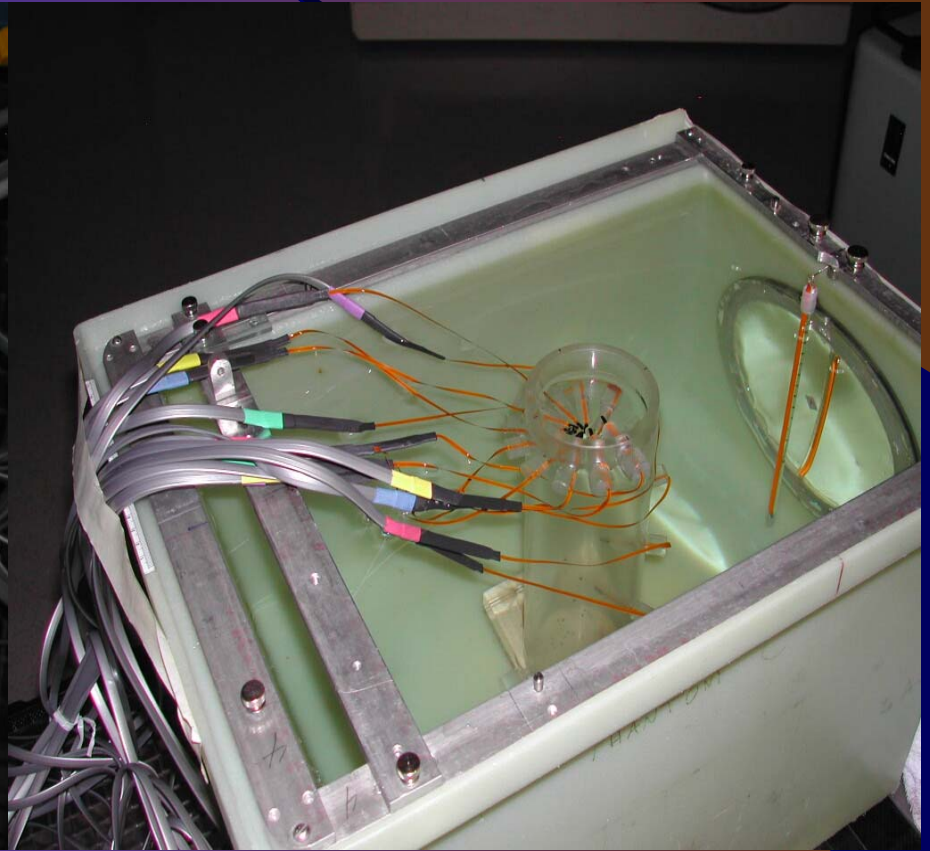
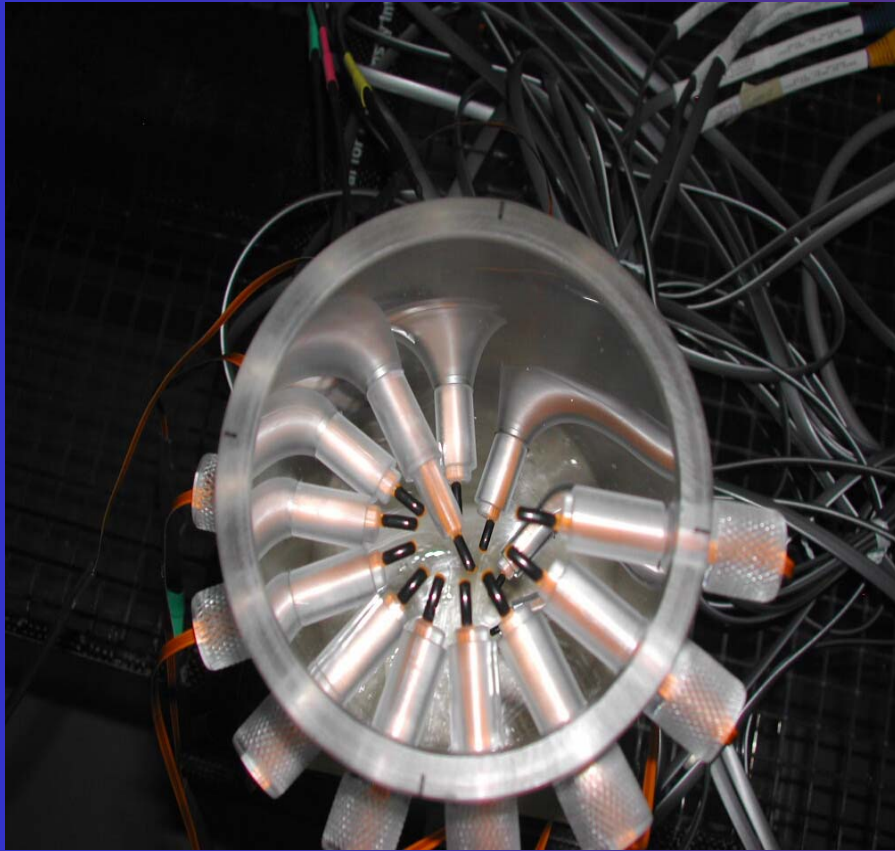
Clinac 2104-6 MV-20x20-100 cm SAD



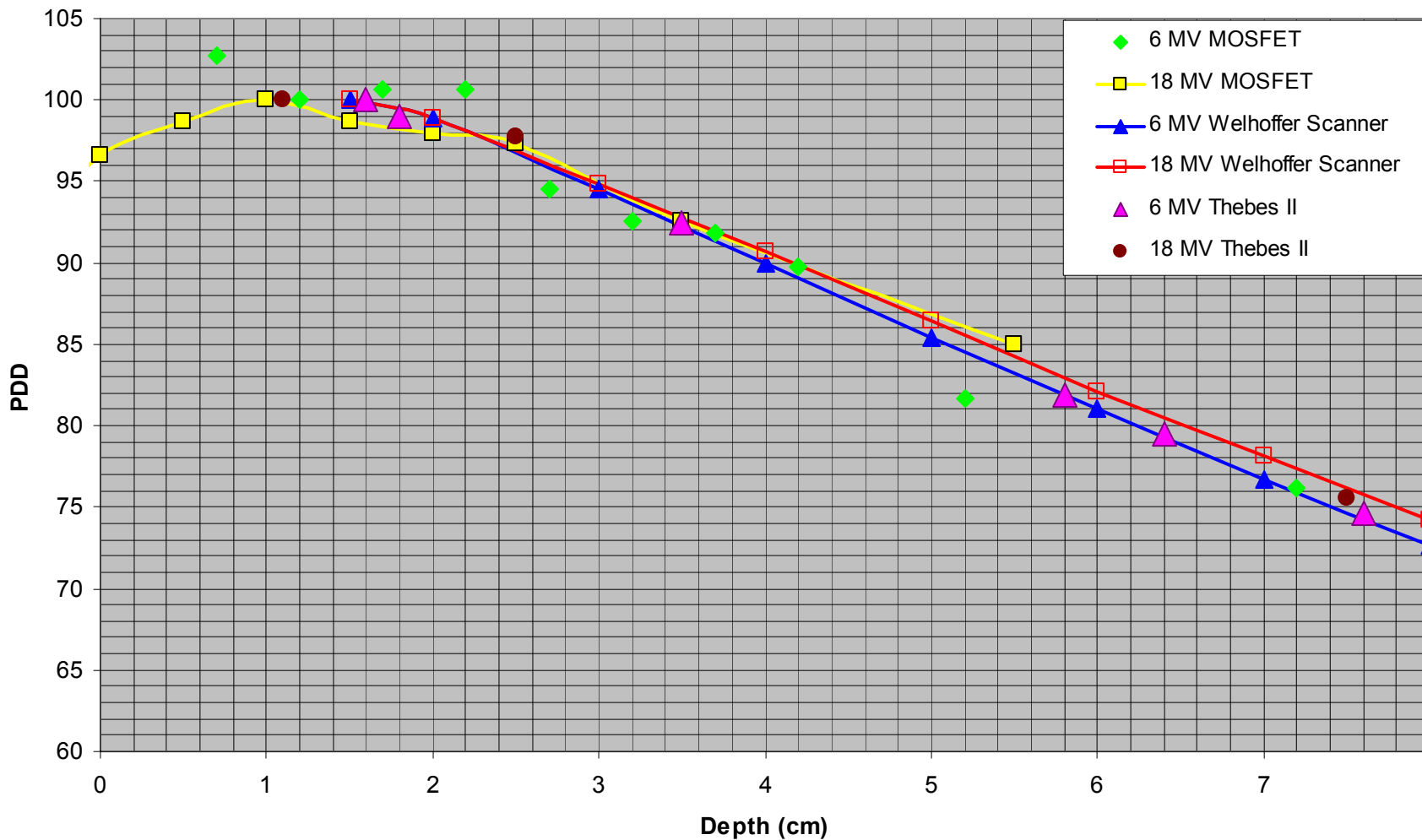
Clinac 2104-6 MV-20x20-100 cm SAD



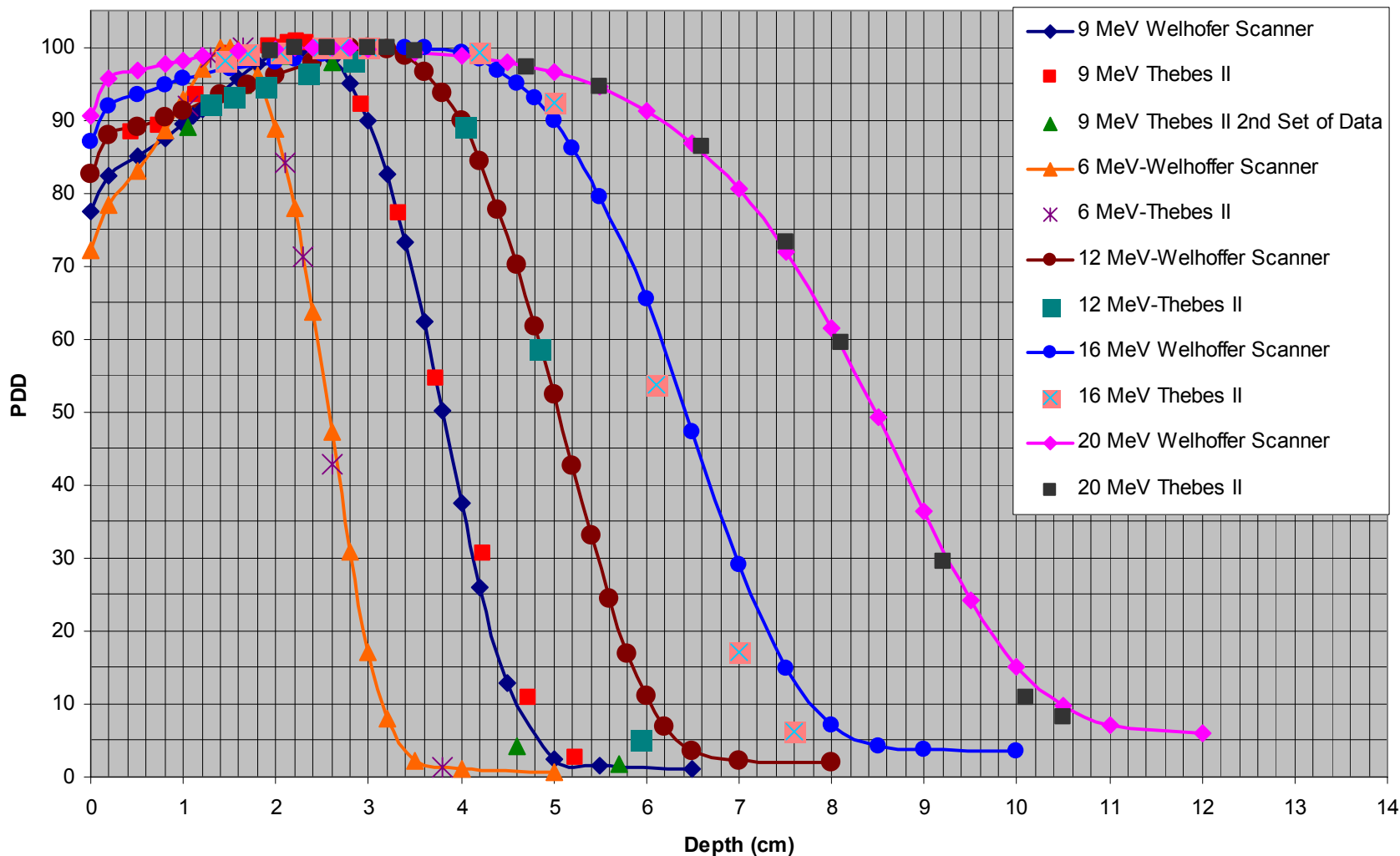
Top view of MOSFET Dosimeter array
in the cylindrical device, and in the water tank



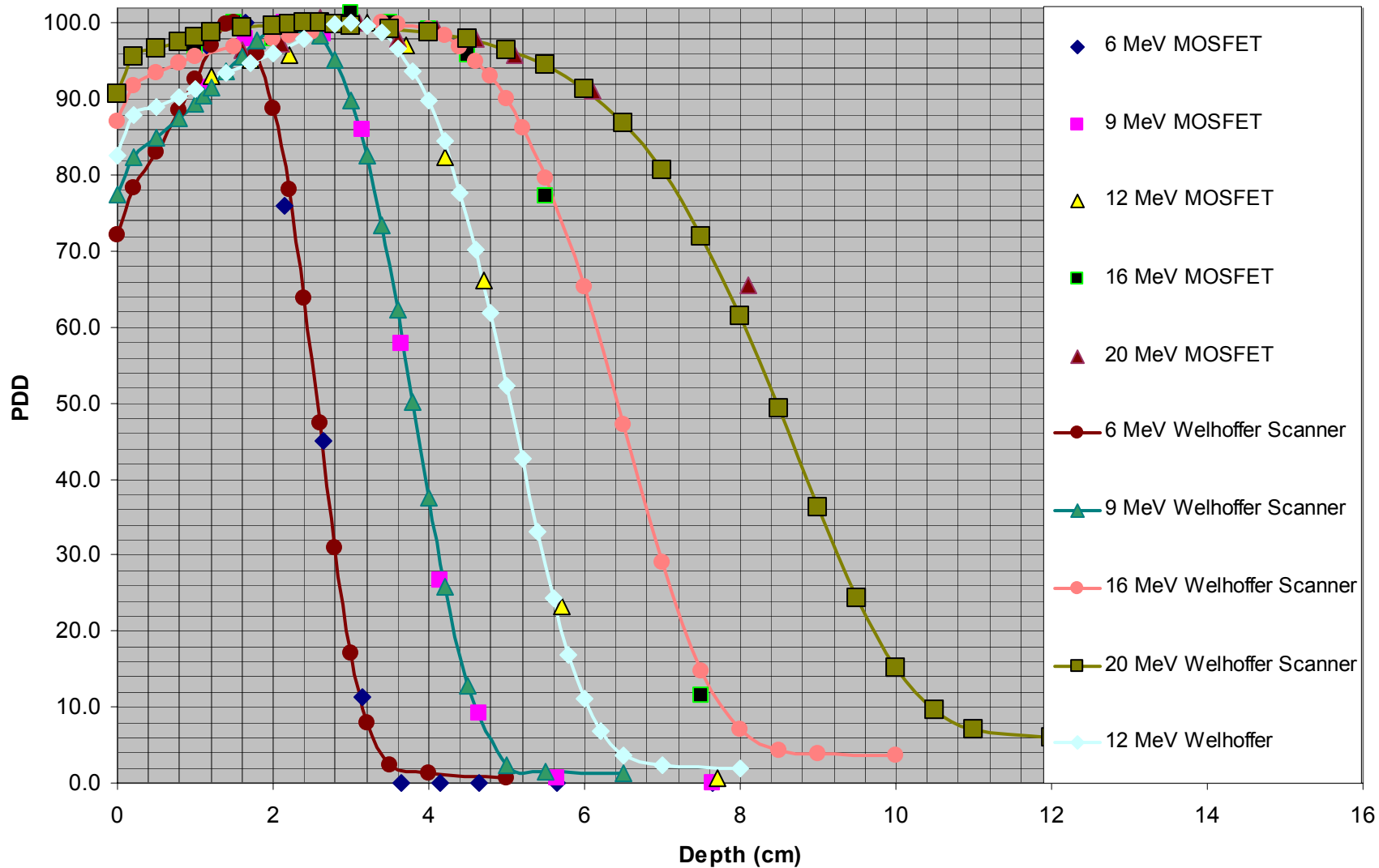
Clinac 2100C Photon Beams Percentage Depth Dose
10 cm x 10 cm
MOSFET PDD Device



Clinac 2100C9 MeV Electron Beam Percentage Depth Dose 10 cm x 10 cm cone, 100 cm SSD



Clinac 2100C Electron Beams Percentage Depth Dose Curves Obtained Using MOSFET Device



Conclusion

In summary, there was excellent agreement between data acquired with the Thebes II therapy beam evaluation system and the Welhoffer scanning systems. These intercomparison demonstrate the usefulness of this device to correctly and precisely acquire dosimetry data needed by the RPC to monitor institutions. The Intercomparison with MOSFET detectors agreed with the Thebes system and also with the Welhoffer scans within 2-3%.

Discussion

Due to constrain imposed on the radiotherapy treatment parameter by the response of tumor and normal tissues, the dose to patients must be delivered accurately and consistently. The International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU, 1976) has recommended that the dose been delivered to tumors be within 5% of the prescribed dose. The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) Task Group 40 (TG-40) developed a list of Quality Assurance procedures, their tolerances, and frequencies to maintain a good QA program of medical accelerators (Linac). The AAPM TG-40 is very comprehensive and requires a significant effort by the physician, physicist, dosimetrist, and therapist. Industry responded to the TG-40 recommendation by developing many devices for QA of Linac. Among those devises are newly commercially available data acquisition and analysis systems (Thebes II, Inovision, Cleveland, OH). These devises could facilitate the burden of taking large amount of data needed to maintain a QA program of treatment dosimetry parameter. These devices also may facilitate data acquisition during the RPC on-site dosimetry reviews visit to institutions, and may also be a tool in the remote acquisition of dosimetry data.

References

- 1 Private communication, David Donaghue Physicist/Engineer, Radiation Management Services, Cardinal Health, Cleveland Ohio.
- 2 A protocol for the determination of absorbed dose from high-energy photon and electron beams. Task Group 21 Radiation Therapy Committee, AAPM. Med. Phys. 10 (6), pp. 741-771, 1983.
- 3 AAPM's TG-51 protocol for clinical reference dosimetry of high-energy photon and electron beams. Med. Phys. 26 (9), pp. 1847-1869, 1999.
- 4. M. K. Islam, H Rashid, H. Gaballa, J. Ting, and U. F. Rosenow, Med. Phys. 20 (1), pp. 187-189, 1991.
- 5. Thebes II Specifications, www.inovision.com
- 6. U. F. Rosenow, M. K. Islam, H. Gaballa, and H. Rashid, Med. Phys. 18 (1), 19-25, 1991.
- 7. D. D. Leavitt, and L. Larsson, Med. Phys. 20(2), 381-382, 1993.
- 8 Comprehensive QA for radiation oncology: Report of AAPM Radiation Therapy Committee Task Group 40, Med. Phys. 21 (4), and pp. 581-617, 1994.
- 8. AAPM code of practice for radiotherapy accelerators: Report of AAPM Radiation Therapy Task Group 45. Med. Phys. 21 (7), pp. 1093-1121, 1994.
- 9. Technical Report No. 2 Thomson & Nielsen Electronics LTD. 1995.
- 10. P Scalchi, and P. Francescon, Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys. Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 987-993, 1998.
- 11.M. Soubra, and J. Cygler, Med. Phys. 21 (4), pp. 567-572, 1994.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was supported in part by Mr. Bryan Hughes who provided the Victoreen Thebes II Therapy Beam Evaluation System (SYNCOR Radiation Management, Cleveland, Ohio).

The authors wish to thank Mr. Keith Daniel and Christina Ziegler from the Department of Physics Machine Shop for manufacturing the devices used in this work. We also wish to thank Mr. James F. DeVogue III for his excellent secretarial support.

* Email address: jbencomo@mdanderson.org

† Email address: [Geoffrey S. Ibbott/MDACC@MDACC](mailto:Geoffrey.S.Ibbott@MDACC)

‡ Email address: [Seungsoo Lee/MDACC@MDACC](mailto:Seungsoo.Lee@MDACC)

§ Email address: jaborjes@terra.com.br