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Radiation-associated adverse events after childhood cancer

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About the author

Irma van Dijk was born in Mijdrecht the Netherlands, on April 10th, 1964. After graduating from Veenlanden College Secondary School in Mijdrecht in 1982, she started her in-service training as a diagnostic radiographer at the Department of Radiology of the Free University Medical Center (VUMC) in Amsterdam. In 1987, she moved to the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Academic Medical Center (AMC) in Amsterdam to train as a radiation therapy radiographer. For the next 12 years, she continued her career in radiotherapy and specialized in brachytherapy.

In 1999 she spent a sabbatical year in Italy, where she met new friends who introduced her to the Italian way of living. She used this time to travel, exploring art and culture and taking photographs which she processed herself. She discovered the joy of Italian cooking, and mastered the Italian language.

After returning to the Netherlands, she worked for almost two years as a breast cancer screening radiographer for the Integral Cancer Centre (IKA) at Amsterdam, while in the meantime reflecting on future career possibilities. She returned to the AMC in 2002 to pick up her profession as a radiation therapy radiographer, and during this period she also passed her mathematics state exam which allowed her to study Health Sciences at the University of Maastricht. After obtaining her Master's Degree in 2007, she had the opportunity to start as a scientific researcher at the AMC Department of Radiation Oncology, investigating adverse events after radiation therapy in children. In addition, she did a master course in epidemiology and achieved her second Master's Degree in 2010. Her first paper was published in 2010, after which she applied for funding from the KiKa Foundation (Stichting Kinderen Kankervrij), which was granted. This enabled her to continue her scientific work on the project "Radiation-associated adverse events after childhood cancer" which resulted in this PhD thesis.