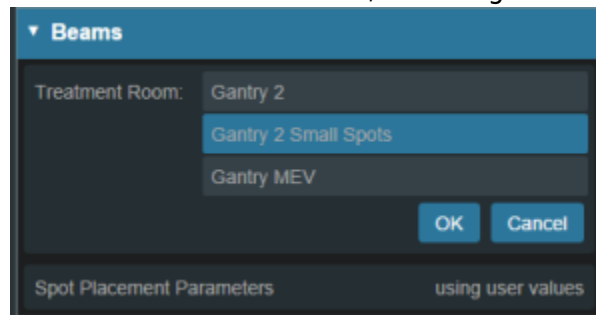


# Proton Beams

Defining treatment beams will be one of the most important tasks within the Astroid planning system. Defining appropriate beams will require users to use their knowledge and experience to properly select many of the parameters that define a treatment beam. These parameters include the target, geometry (isocenter, gantry and couch angles), beamline devices, air gap, and spot placement options. The *Beam* task utilizes a series of blocks to organize the beam creation process into a common step-by-step sequence. Several blocks are optional as not all beams will use all features. Additionally, it is important to point out that the treatment room & default spot placement parameters are set outside of the individual beam creation tasks as these apply to all beams (however, spot placement parameters can be overridden within each beam if desired). An example of constructing a lateral beam, with the isocenter at the centroid of the PTV is given below to illustrate the features available when defining a beam.

## Treatment Room & Mode Type (SOBP or PBS)

1. Within the *Plan Overview* select the *Beams* block
2. From this interface you can select the treatment room, including the treatment mode



3. If the treatment mode is PBS you can then select and define the plan level *PBS Spot Placement Parameters*. Edit these parameters to define the spot placement grid for each beam in the plan, noting that individual beams can override these values during beam creation if you so desire

## Beam Creation

1. The next step is to create the beam by clicking the *Create New PBS Beam* button
2. Now we will proceed step-by-step through the various “blocks” to create a complete beam as shown below:

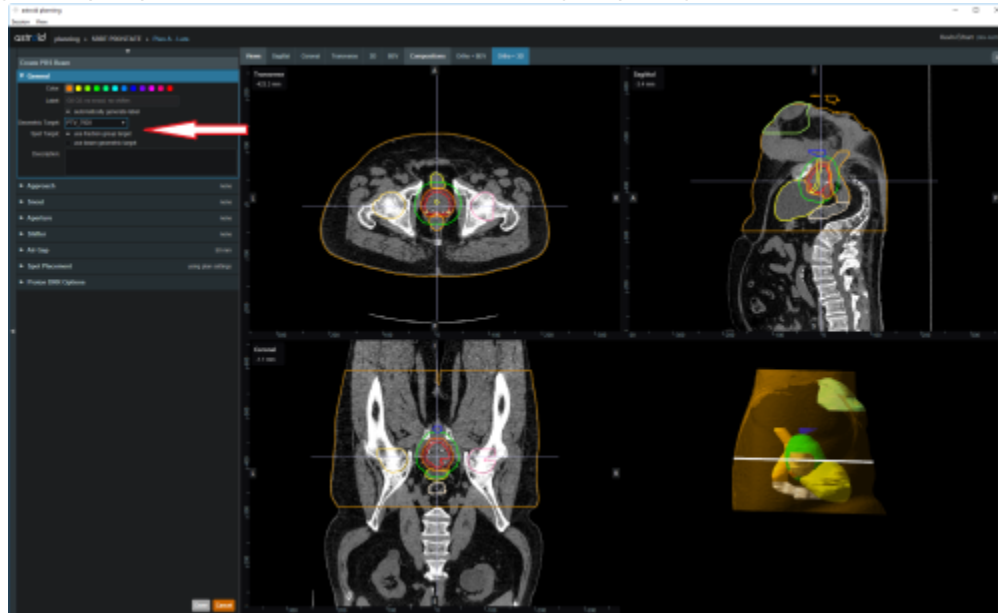
## General Settings

The *General* block is used to set general beam details including:

- Beam label, description, and color
- The intended Geometric Target (used for approach and device creation). You may choose an existing target or create a new structure. For this example we chose the PTV\_7920 as the

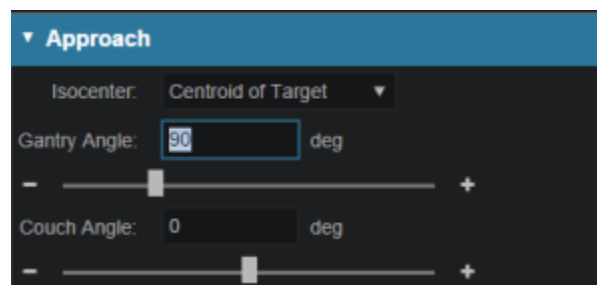
geometric target. The geometric target will be used to define the extents of the aperture (if used) and will be linked to the isocenter position (if target centroid is selected in the approach block).

- Also specified here is the *Spot Target* (PBS only), which will be used to define the extent of the pbs spot placements for the beam. The spot target can either match the geometric target, or the user can choose to use the target for the fraction group in which the beam is used (this is a useful option as it allows the same geometric beam to be used in multiple fraction groups by simply recomputing the spot positions based on the fraction group target).



## Beam Approach

In the *Approach* block specify the desired isocenter from the dropdown. You may choose to use the centroid of the Geometric Target (as shown below) or you can select or create a new point to define the location for the isocenter. The gantry angle and couch angles are also entered here as well. Editing these values can be done by typing directly in the provided fields or by using the sliders. The patient in this example is feet first so we will use 90 for the *Gantry Angle* and 0 for the *Couch Angle* to create a left lateral beam.



## Snout

In the snout block a list of snouts associated with the specified treatment room will be available to choose from. Selecting a snout can change what beamline devices are available based on the facility model in the site info.

## Apertures

If desired, add an aperture in the *Aperture* block. (No *Aperture* was chosen in this example)

1. Refer to [Creating a New Aperture](#) for detailed instruction

## Shifters (PBS)

The Range Shifter block is only available for PBS treatment modes.

1. If desired, select the range *Shifter* to use based on the ones available for the selected snout. If no *Shifter* is needed as in the example given, the user may go to the next step

## Air Gap

Once the beam line devices are defined, we can move to specify the *Air Gap* distance. The valid air gap range will be listed based on the selected snout. The user may choose any value in this range. 30mm was chosen in the below example.

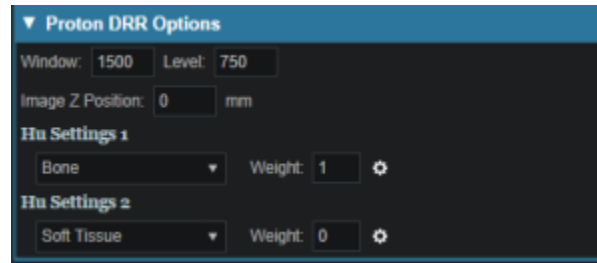
## Beam Spot Placements (PBS)

The Spot Placement block is only available for PBS treatment modes.

1. With the beam positioned and any beamline devices put in place, the user is ready view the PBS Spots and adjust the *Spot Placement* values if needed. The *Spot Placement* box, if chosen, will allow the user to set new parameters, overriding the spot placement parameters for this one beam if desired. The example below illustrates the message shown when using the spot placement values from the plan level.

## Proton DRRs

Proton DRRs do not impact the beam and are used purely for visualization purposes so that you can set the DRR Options to levels that generate appropriate anatomy visualizations. An example DRR is shown below. Note that Astroid allows you to define 2 distinct DRRs and then blend them together using a simple weight factor to create a single DRR image on the screen. This gives users the freedom to create high contrast, high quality DRR visualizations. A single image was used in the example below as the second set of DRR options has the weight set to 0.



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