

# Saint Luke's Brain Tumor Center

The center for state-of-the-art care for the brain tumor patient

Saint Luke's Brain Tumor Center is dedicated to providing the very best care for the treatment of patients with primary or metastatic tumors of the brain and spinal cord. We offer cutting edge treatment modalities, clinical research, a multidisciplinary care team, and are the only full-service, patient and family centered brain tumor center available in the greater Kansas City area.

Developing an individualized plan is the focus of our center, whether patients are referred for an educational visit, second opinion, surgery, radiation treatments, chemo- or molecularly targeted therapy, or one of our other specialized services including comprehensive cognitive and physical assessment offered at our new Brain Fitness Center.

## Easy Access and Coordinated Care

Patient appointments or referral inquiries can be made by calling (816) 932-4807.

Referred patients will receive an expedited appointment within 24-48 hours (weekdays) with a neuro-oncologist or neurosurgeon.

The center's designated nurse coordinator functions as an interface to facilitate communication between various center specialists and the referring physician regarding the patient's diagnosis and treatment. In addition, the nurse coordinator helps to navigate the patient through the program with support and education throughout the diagnosis, treatment, and recovery process.

## Neuro-Oncology

The Brain Tumor Center is led by a physician who is fellowship trained in neuro-oncology and board certified in medical oncology, palliative medicine, and internal medicine. He is supported by a multidisciplinary team composed of specialists in medical oncology, neurosurgery, radiation medicine, neuro-radiology, neurology, neuropathology, rehabilitation medicine and palliative care.

Cases are reviewed at bi-weekly team conferences where decisions about the most appropriate approach to care are made and treatment plans are developed.

Medical oncology includes all types of chemotherapies, biologic therapies and newer molecularly targeted therapies used in treating brain tumors whether primary or metastatic. The inpatient hematology/oncology unit is staffed with certified oncology nurses skilled in caring for patients and families in all phases of their illness. The outpatient infusion clinic offers therapy in a comfortable setting.

## Diagnostics

The center offers the latest in diagnostic services to ascertain the extent of disease and the efficacy of treatment. Neuro-radiology technologies include computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), functional MRI, MR spectroscopy, PET scanning, and cerebral angiography. A full range of diagnostic biopsy capabilities and pathology procedures help specialists develop a specifically tailored approach to the management of tumors.

## Neurosurgery

The center's skilled neurosurgery group has extensive experience utilizing the latest surgical interventions for the treatment of brain tumors, including stereotactic biopsy, image guided surgical resection, surgical implantation of chemotherapy wafers, awake craniotomy, functional mapping and stereotactic radiosurgery.

The program's neurosurgical "operating room of the future" provides a setting in which all aspects of neurosurgery – from planning and diagnostic imaging to treatment – are integrated within one room. This provides neurosurgeons state-of-the-art technology in a streamlined environment, enabling more precise, efficient surgeries.

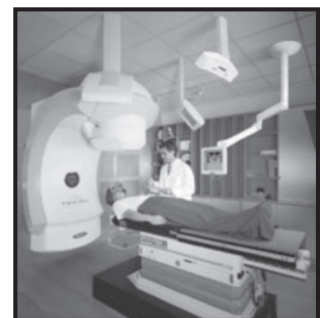
Inpatient facilities at Saint Luke's Hospital include a dedicated, state-of-the-art neuroscience unit with the eICU, an advanced medical surveillance technology system for Saint Luke's intensive care patients. The unit is equipped with a portable CT scanner (Ceretom), minimizing the need for patient transfers within the facility during the course of stay.

## Radiation Oncology

The center offers a wide array of radiation treatments used in the treatment of brain tumors. These include intensity modulated radiation therapy, 3-D conformal radiation therapy, 4-D gating and image guided radiation therapy, whole brain radiation therapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, and brachytherapy.

## Shaped Beam Surgery

The Novalis shaped beam linear accelerator offers advanced, minimally invasive radiation treatment options for patients with tumors of the brain, head, neck, and spine. Located on the Saint Luke's Hospital campus with easy access to parking, the Novalis system provides an alternative treatment option for selected patients, allowing them to avoid invasive surgery altogether. It is also used in those who cannot undergo traditional surgery because of other serious illnesses, and those whose tumors are located in inoperable areas. Together neurosurgeons and radiation oncologists map out a treatment plan using shaped beam radiation, a non-invasive delivery of a precise dose of high-energy radiation to shrink or control the growth of a tumor. The procedure is virtually painless, avoids lengthy hospital stays or rehabilitation, and is performed on an outpatient basis.



## Saint Luke's Brain Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy

The center is dedicated to restoring health and getting patients back to their daily lives. We offer inpatient physical, occupational, speech, and audiology services, along with an inpatient rehabilitation unit. Caregivers can learn better techniques in caring for their loved one through the unit's Caregiver Training Program.

Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy are offered on several sites on the Saint Luke's Hospital campus. Specialty programs include comprehensive wound care, the Brain Fitness Center, and balance, vision, dysphasia, and lymphedema assessment and treatment.

## Home Health & Hospice

The Saint Luke's Brain Tumor Center understands that this illness affects the whole family and that quality of life is very important. For some patients and families there is a time where the burdens of further cancer directed treatments outweigh potential benefits. Even in these circumstances, we can coordinate a full range of treatments and services focused on comfort and maintaining patients in their homes with the help of home health and hospice care—encouraging more time with family and friends.

## Support Services

- Brain Tumor Support Group: A locally organized brain tumor support group meets monthly on the Saint Luke's Hospital campus. This group is open to patients and their families to discuss various topics and coping mechanisms regarding brain tumors. Brain tumor experts are periodically invited to speak to the group.
- As a Magnet facility, Saint Luke's is part of an elite group of hospitals nationwide recognized for excellence in nursing care. The neuroscience unit is staffed by nurses who are specially trained and certified in the management of patients with neurologic disease.
- The Saint Luke's Brain Tumor Center can provide referral.
- Missys' Mirror, a boutique located on the Saint Luke's campus, serves the appearance needs of female and male cancer patients.
- Spiritual support services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Saint Luke's Health System.
- Information on many local and regional organizations that provide education, resources, and advocacy to patients.



Services are provided at various locations on the Saint Luke's Hospital campus  
4401 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64111

**For more information about the Brain Tumor Center at Saint Luke's Hospital or affiliated clinics or services, referring physicians or patients may contact the Brain Tumor Center Nurse Coordinator through the neuro-oncology clinic at (816) 932-4807 or call NurseLine 24/7 at (816) 932-6220.**

**Online at [www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org](http://www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org)  
Search term: brain tumor**

 **Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute**  
SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM  
[saintlukeshealthsystem.org](http://saintlukeshealthsystem.org)

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