



SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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Saint Luke's Hospital acquires state-of-the-art tumor treatment technology

New Shaped Beam Surgery Center expands cancer treatment options

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Additional treatment options for patients with tumors of the brain, head, neck, and spine are now accessible at Saint Luke's Hospital through an innovative stereotactic radiosurgery and radiotherapy treatment center featuring the Novalis® shaped beam system made by BrainLAB. Patients are now being treated at the newly opened Shaped Beam Surgery Center on the Saint Luke's Hospital campus in the 4400 Broadway Medical Building.

Saint Luke's Hospital is the only hospital in the region to offer this shaped beam treatment system, which is becoming the standard of care for advanced cancer treatment with 49 sites in the United States.

The new system presents an alternative treatment option for patients who cannot benefit from traditional surgery because of other illnesses, because tumors are located in inoperable areas, or because of the increased risk of harming critical structures near the tumor.

“The shaped beam system is an important addition to the arsenal of tools in our program to treat patients with tumors of the brain and spine,” says Saint Luke's Hospital vice president Kevin Thorpe. “This technology allows us to perform procedures more precisely, efficiently, and safely. Its ability to integrate three-dimensional information from CT, MRI, and PET scans makes it possible for physicians to more accurately deliver precise doses to the tumor, preserving surrounding tissues.”

Radiosurgery with shaped beam surgery is the non-invasive delivery of a precise dose of high-energy radiation to shrink or control the growth of a tumor by killing tumor cells or

interfering with their ability to grow. By continuously shaping the treatment beam to match the size and shape of a patient's tumor from all angles, the system ensures that the tumor receives the full treatment dose while protecting healthy tissue. The procedure is virtually painless, avoids lengthy hospital stays or rehabilitation, and the patient remains awake throughout the entire procedure. In most cases, radiosurgery is performed on an outpatient basis.

Initially the shaped beam radiosurgery system will be employed by neurosurgeons and radiation oncologists at Saint Luke's, with the potential to eventually expand its use to other areas of the body including the lung, liver, and prostate. "Patient needs are discussed and treatment options are reviewed to determine the most appropriate plan of action at our regular interdisciplinary case conferences," said Michael Salacz, M.D., oncologist at Saint Luke's Cancer Institute.

"The new center offers significant steps forward in both our ability to precisely define the exact tissues that require treatment and in our ability to deftly sculpt radiation dose to conform to only those tissues," said Terry J. Wall, J.D., M.D., radiation oncologist at Saint Luke's. Whether the system is used for stereotactic radiosurgery (where all targeted tissues are destroyed in a single treatment) or for stereotactic radiation therapy (where biological differences between tumor and normal tissue are treated during a more prolonged course), patients can expect more effective treatment, with diminished associated side effects, Dr. Wall elaborated.

About BrainLAB

BrainLAB is specialized in the development, manufacture, and marketing of medical technology for radiosurgery / radiotherapy, orthopedics, neurosurgery, and ENT. Among the products developed by BrainLAB are software and hardware components for image-guided surgery, components for linear accelerators in radiotherapy as well as integrated systems for stereotactic radiosurgery. For more information, visit www.brainlab.com.

About Saint Luke's Hospital

Saint Luke's Hospital is a member of Saint Luke's Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of primary, acute, tertiary, and chronic care services. The health system is an organization in which the physicians and hospitals, functioning as an integrated unit, assume responsibility for the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, quality health care for people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.

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