



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ST. LUKE'S MOUNTAIN STATES TUMOR INSTITUTE BEGINS TREATING PATIENTS USING ADVANCED DYNAMIC TARGETING® IGRT

New Technology Can Treat Cancer Quickly and with Unprecedented Precision

Boise, ID (April 20, 2007) – This week, St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) in Nampa has started treating cancer patients with advanced technology for image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT). Doctors at St. Luke's MSTI Nampa are now using a versatile new imaging system from Varian Medical Systems, which make it possible to deliver Dynamic Targeting® IGRT with great precision and speed.

IGRT is an extremely precise form of treatment that utilizes multiple imaging and motion management techniques for ultra-accurate tumor targeting. St. Luke's MSTI Nampa predicts that 120 patients will benefit from the technology in the first year alone. Patients with a variety of diagnosis such as breast, prostate, head/neck and lung cancer can be treated using IGRT.

“This state-of-the-art upgrade makes it possible for us to treat patients with the most advanced radiotherapy techniques, using the most clinically efficient processes in the world,” said Dr. Stephen Smith, MSTI Nampa Radiation Oncology Physician. “It provides us with unprecedented versatility and precision for customizing treatments according to the specifics of each patient's case.”

Through more precise targeting of the beam, patients will see an increase of benefits when being treated with IGRT. Dosage levels can be increased and target volumes (the three-dimensional areas to receive treatment) can be reduced. Tumors will get a higher dose of radiation and healthy surrounding tissues will get very little. Higher doses have been shown to enhance treatment effectiveness and better targeting reduces the possible side effects of radiotherapy.

“By incorporating the high-quality imaging, tracking, and monitoring provided by Varian's Dynamic Targeting IGRT technology, we are able to deliver the most accurate treatments possible,” said Dr. Tonya Kuhn, MSTI Nampa Radiation Oncology Physician. “As a result, high doses of radiation can be delivered quickly and with great precision. This translates into fast treatments, greater patient comfort, and the potential for better outcomes.”

(MORE)

Varian's Dynamic Targeting IGRT incorporates a robotic imaging system capable of real-time tumor tracking and automated patient positioning. This device enables clinicians to concentrate radiation doses on the tumor while protecting surrounding healthy tissue.

In addition, IGRT is able to deliver radiation in three dimensions to conform to the tumor. IGRT has the capability to monitor changes with the tumor on an ongoing basis during the patient's treatment so as the tumor changes shape or may move with movement of the internal organs or position of the patient, the delivery of the radiation can be changed accordingly to accurately treat the tumor.

There will be an estimated 1,600 new cancer cases in those 40 years of age or older in Canyon County in 2007, according to the Cancer Data Registry. Patients who seek treatment at St. Luke's MSTI Nampa now have access to the most advanced cancer treatment technologies available.

Information about St. Luke's MSTI:

St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) opened its doors in 1969 and is now Idaho's largest provider of cancer services, caring for approximately 400 patients each day. St. Luke's operates five MSTI facilities throughout Idaho, six Breast Cancer Detection Centers, two diagnostic breast-imaging sites, and a mobile mammography unit. Since that time, the experts at St. Luke's MSTI have cared for more than 45,000 adult and pediatric patients.

Information about St. Luke's Health System:

St. Luke's Health System is Idaho's only locally owned, not-for-profit health system. The system offers a full continuum of care through its four hospitals and more than 30 outpatient centers and clinics. St. Luke's Health System's 6,400 employees, 867-member medical staff, and more than 850 volunteers are committed to delivering the highest quality care to those in medical need regardless of their ability to pay. With a mission "To improve the health of people in our region," St. Luke's Health System provided \$138 million (including capital) in community benefit during its 2006 fiscal year. The hospitals of St. Luke's Health System have earned numerous national awards and recognition for excellence in patient care. For more information about St. Luke's Health System, visit www.stlukesonline.org.

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