



calgary health region



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Canadian first brings cancer patients new hope

The Alberta RadioSurgery Centre opens today, becoming the first site in Canada to offer Novalis® Shaped Beam Surgery to cancer patients. Located at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre adjacent to the Foothills Medical Centre, this new non-invasive technology will help treat Albertans with cancerous and non-cancerous tumors in the brain, spine, prostate, liver and lung.

The arrival of this state-of-the-art treatment means local oncologists can now precisely pinpoint large doses of radiation to treat patients with certain types of inoperable tumors and other neurological abnormalities. Fast and painless, patients can also return to their daily routine quicker, without the long recovery time or intensive care sometimes needed after traditional surgery. It is estimated 200 patients will receive treatment in the first year and 600 patients over the first three years of operation.

“This is a breakthrough in cancer treatment for our patients,” explains Dr. Peter Craighead, Medical Director of the Alberta Radiosurgery Centre. He adds, “use of the Novalis® technology significantly reduces the risk of damaging areas that control important memory, emotion, speech and muscle movement. With this new tool, we can target treatment at tumors in sensitive areas we couldn’t reach before.”

“We are all proud to have invested our time and money into bringing this important Novalis® technology to Calgary, adds Janet Umphrey, Vice President Northwest Community Portfolio, Calgary Health Region. “Its arrival is a direct result of the strong partnership between the Alberta Cancer Board, the Calgary Health Region, the Calgary Health Trust and the generosity of many local donors.” The Calgary Health Trust is raising \$4 million to purchase the technology.

“This new treatment technology will significantly expand the level of care we can provide to cancer patients we couldn’t help before, says Dr. Tony Fields, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Community Oncology, Alberta Cancer Board. “Working together to put advanced cancer technology into the hands of our cancer care specialists is our number one priority.”

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