Have there been studies done to prove the effectiveness of proton therapy?
Yes, there are clinical studies supporting the effectiveness of proton therapy and ongoing studies at our Center. Please visit www.SCCAprotontherapy.com for more information.

Is proton therapy covered by most insurance plans?
Yes, many private insurance companies, as well as Medicare and state Medicaid programs cover proton therapy. Our team can help you understand your insurance coverage, coordinate insurance payments, and find alternate financing.

Can proton therapy be used in combination with other cancer treatments?
In many cases, yes. Proton therapy can be used in combination with chemotherapy, as a follow-up treatment to surgery, and in combination with standard X-ray radiation treatment. The SCCA Proton Therapy Center has joined with several medical centers to provide patients with additional cancer services, and is located on the campus of UW’s Northwest Hospital & Medical Center.

Do you have patient testimonials?
Yes, please check out our Survivor Stories section on our website at www.SCCAprotontherapy.com.

Proton therapy is a next-generation, precisely targeted radiation technology developed to treat tumors while minimizing side effects of radiation. Many proton therapy patients are able to carry on with everyday activities during treatment.

Brain Tumor Treatment with Protons

Below is an example of a brain tumor treated with proton therapy and standard X-rays. In both therapies, the tumor is treated with radiation. However, with proton therapy, the healthy brain tissue surrounding the tumor and the nearby critical organs are spared any additional radiation. With standard X-rays, healthy tissue may receive more radiation than with proton therapy.

Is proton therapy right for you?

Proton therapy is effective in treating certain types of cancers, as well as some non-cancerous tumors. It is particularly beneficial for treating tumors near critical organs or structures such as the brain, heart or spinal cord. Below is a list of tumors that may benefit from proton therapy.

- Brain tumors
- Prostate cancer
- Certain pediatric tumors
- Head and neck tumors
- Base-of-skull tumors
- Tumors near the spine
- Breast cancer
- Lung cancer and chest tumors
- Pituitary gland tumors
- Thyroid gland tumors
- Sarcomas and other connective and soft tissue tumors
- Gastrointestinal tumors, including rectal, pancreatic, esophageal and colon
- Orbital and eye tumors

Protons are positively charged particles found in the nucleus of atoms. For proton therapy, protons are separated from electrons in hydrogen atoms, then accelerated in a cyclotron. To deliver treatment, protons then travel down a beam line guided by magnets to the precise location of the patient’s tumor.

One of the things that’s special about proton therapy is the unique control protons offer doctors to deliver radiation precisely to the tumor, minimizing exposure to nearby healthy tissue. Protons can be controlled to release the greatest amount of energy, in the form of radiation, exactly in the tumor. The proton expends all its energy in the tumor. This is called the Bragg peak and it allows a patient to receive higher doses of radiation with less damage to nearby tissue.

For patients who require more complex treatment, our Center also offers innovative pencil-beam scanning (PBS) to deliver proton therapy. PBS “paints” a tumor with a very thin, very precise beam of protons that’s accurate within millimeters, reducing even further the amount of radiation to healthy tissue. PBS sends rapid pulses of protons to each planned spot within the tumor until the whole tumor is treated.

Effective in Treating a Broad Range of Tumors.

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SCCA Proton Therapy Center.

We Take Care of You.

At the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Proton Therapy Center, in Seattle, Washington, we provide patients with advanced radiation therapy in a supportive environment. The Center is equipped with the most advanced proton therapy technology available. A team of radiation oncologists and highly skilled medical professionals is dedicated to providing exceptional and personalized patient care.

Our distinguished physicians are all faculty at the University of Washington Department of Radiation Oncology and have trained and worked at some of the best cancer centers in the country, including UW Medicine, Harvard, MD Anderson, Stanford, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins.

Patients who come to our Center for treatment will benefit from the latest research-based cancer therapies, cutting-edge technology, leadership in cancer care and a personalized Care Team.

Children and Proton Therapy

Proton therapy is a particularly important treatment option for children because their bodies are more vulnerable to the effects of excess radiation. Children can experience more serious short- and long-term side effects such as developmental delays and growth problems. Proton therapy may minimize these risks.

Find out more.

To learn more about proton therapy or to request a consultation, please call: 877-897-7628 or visit www.SCACa protontherapy.com.