Proton Therapy is the Solution for Many Patients with Ocular Cancer

How do I know if proton therapy will work for me?
Many patients with ocular cancers are good candidates for proton therapy. If you would like to better understand the use of proton therapy in your treatment, we can work with you to schedule a consultation with a radiation oncologist. During the consultation, the radiation oncologist will discuss different treatment options with you and determine if you will benefit from proton therapy. The radiation oncologists who practice at SCCA Proton Therapy Center and UW Medicine use other forms of radiation to treat ocular cancers, so they will provide you with an expert recommendation for your consideration.

Is proton therapy covered by my insurance?
Proton therapy is covered by many insurance providers. SCCA Proton Therapy Center has financial counselors who are dedicated to guiding you through the insurance process. Please contact us at 206-306-2800 if you have questions about coverage.

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References:
Ocular cancers are rare, and they have a high likelihood of being cured when the disease is localized and treated with surgery or radiation.

Ocular cancers can be difficult to treat because of their proximity to vital organs. Proton therapy can effectively treat tumors with the goal of minimizing radiation exposure to healthy tissues, which in turn reduces the risk of complications.

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- Patients undergo a minor surgical procedure to place marker clips for positioning.
- Treatment and care are given by a team of specialized doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals.
- The time spent delivering proton therapy is only 5 to 7 minutes, but the entire treatment session may take 30 minutes.
- After treatment, you will most likely be able to go right back to your daily routine.

During proton therapy, a beam of protons accelerated in a cyclotron is directed at the tumor. The nature of protons is such that the radiation dose increases suddenly, in what is called a Bragg Peak, and then falls effectively to zero. This allows radiation oncologists to precisely target tumors and avoid healthy tissue behind the tumor. The beam is shaped to size and depth using apertures and compensators. In addition, because the proton beam gains strength until the target dose, tissue exposed to radiation before the tumor is also reduced.

At SCCA Proton Therapy Center we treat patients seated or lying down. We work closely with local and regional ocular oncology experts to tailor our treatment approach to each individual.

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- John L. Baldwin, MD, Ocular Cancer Survivor