Excellence in Care

“Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) Proton Therapy Center, as a whole, corners the market on compassion, caring, and joy. I feel blessed to have been able to receive proton therapy, and I would love to do anything in my power to help inform others about it. I might not be alive today without it and for that I will be forever grateful.”

— John Ringdahl, Brain tumor survivor

“It was very difficult to be away from my husband and son during treatment, but the staff at SCCA Proton Therapy Center made me feel at home. They were all so kind and understanding of financial difficulties. I’d recommend this treatment to anyone.”

— Linda Rauch, Head & Neck cancer survivor

“In all my 75 years, I have never had such wonderful medical treatment as I received here at the proton center.”

— Bill Krog, Prostate cancer survivor

In three years of operation, almost 1000 patients with various disease types have been treated at the Center.

Find out more

To learn more about proton therapy or to refer a patient, please call The SCCA Proton Therapy Center at (888) 987-7782 or visit www.SCCAprotontherapy.com.

The radiation oncologists who provide clinical care at the Center are all faculty of the University of Washington Department of Radiation Oncology. Having trained at some of the best cancer centers in the country, including UW Medicine, Harvard, MD Anderson, University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins, the radiation oncologists at the UW Department of Radiation Oncology are leaders in the field and are known for clinical excellence as well as research in cancer care.

With specializations in brain, head and neck, breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, prostate and pediatric cancers, our physicians have the expertise to provide the highest level of medical care to patients. To learn more about the physicians who treat at SCCA Proton Therapy Center, please visit www.SCCAprotontherapy.com/about/doctors

SCCA Proton Therapy Center
On the campus of UW Medicine’s Northwest Hospital & Medical Center
1570 N. 115th Street
Seattle, Washington 98133

883 Patients Treated Since Opening (through 2/29/2016)
Expanded Offerings

SCCA Proton Therapy Center is always seeking ways to improve care and expand the types of diseases treated. SCCA Proton Therapy Center has concentrated on achieving these goals, focusing on ocular cancers, technology and procedures.

Ocular Tumors

SCCA Proton Therapy Center treats ocular tumors in our inclined beam room using a chair and mask to immobilize patients during treatment. SCCA Proton Therapy Center has installed specially trained cameras to treat ocular tumors.

The lack of an exit dose in proton therapy makes proton therapy especially beneficial in treating posterior-position tumors of the eye or tumors on the optic nerve, where the disease is in close proximity to the brain and other vital organs.

Proton therapy has very high rates of controlling ocular melanoma, as well as high rates of eye retention.

Breast Cancer

Proton therapy offers many advantages to patients with breast cancer, especially when the left breast is involved. Research has shown that even a small dose of radiation to the heart has great adverse effects in the long term. Proton therapy’s precise targeting means patients receive minimal radiation exposure to the heart and lungs. To further understand how protons can lower the chance of future heart problems, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has funded a study of breast cancer outcomes using protons vs. photons. SCCA Proton Therapy Center is enrolled in the study.

Proton therapy has proven cost effective for the treatment of breast cancer and is becoming a more commonly used post-surgery radiation tool across the country.

Leading Innovations

Three-Field Head-and-Neck Treatment Technique

Our Medical Physics and Dosimetry teams worked with our physicians to develop a robust 3-field treatment technique using pencil beam scanning. This new technique enables us to treat complicated head and neck cancers with multiple dose levels and bi-lateral neck involvement. The technique was presented at the PTCOG-NA Head and Neck Symposium in Arizona in 2015 by Tony Wong, PhD.

Small-Field Dosimeter Testing

SCCA Proton Therapy Center will be testing the use of small-field dosimeters which would allow us to treat tumors smaller than two centimeters. This will be especially beneficial to treating ocular tumors. Currently, no other proton center in the United States is looking into this option.

Efficiency in PBS Treatments

SCCA Proton Therapy Center uses PBS in the gantry to treat many complex tumors. Especially in the treating cranio-spinal tumors, PBS has allowed us to reduce the time a patient spends in-room and immobilized, from one hour or more to less than 30 minutes, much increasing patient comfort. In addition, the Center has fabricated range shifters for use in PBS applications, which allow us to shorten time between patients and offer more life-saving treatments.

Find out more.

To learn more about proton therapy or to refer a patient, please call (888) 987-7782 or visit https://www.sccapronotherapy.com

Technological Advancements

Pencil Beam Scanning

For patients who require more complex treatment, our Center offers 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.

Active Breathing Coordinator

Tumors such as lung cancer and other thoracic and abdominal cancers tend to move when the patient breathes. To better control tumor movement and enable lung cancer patients and others to best benefit from proton therapy, SCCA Proton Therapy Center has become the first proton center in the United States to use an advanced breath-holding device that aids patients in their ability to control breathing during radiation treatment. The Active Breathing Coordinator (ABC™) device assists patients with systematically holding their breath before or after they’ve breathed out. During this brief time, the ABC™ device makes the tumor a stationary target.

RayStation

SCCA Proton Therapy Center uses an advanced treatment software platform called RayStation. Unique features include multi-criteria optimization, dose tracking, treatment adaptation, and near-real-time deformable image registration, which helps physicians make treatment plan changes almost immediately.