

## 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 888-984-7782 if you have questions about coverage.

Please contact us at [info@seattleprotons.org](mailto:info@seattleprotons.org) or call 877-897-7628.

**Physicians:** For further information, please contact our Medical Director, Dr. Ramesh Rengan at (206) 306-2800.

Proton therapy may be a good choice for your ocular tumor if you have:



- Ocular melanoma.
- A tumor near the optic nerve or macula.

Remember: An ocular oncologist is the best person to determine which treatment modality to choose for your tumor.

To learn more about treatment options for ocular cancers, call **877-897-7628**.



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References: 1. Egger E et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2003;55(4): 867-80. 2. Hawkins BS. *Clin Trials.* 2011;8(5): 661-73. 3. Gragoudas ES. *IOVS.* 2006;47(11): 4666-73. 4. Mouw KW et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2014;90(4): 863-9. 5. Mishra KK et al. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2013;87(2): 330-6.

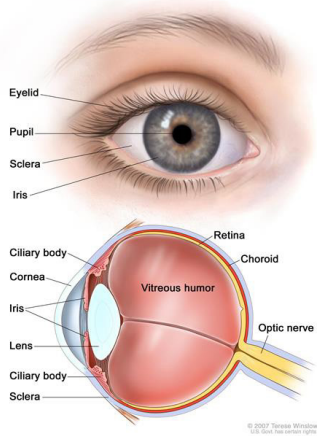
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Transforming Cancer Care  
with Proton Therapy

**A Guide to Proton Therapy  
for Patients with Ocular  
Cancers**

## Ocular Tumors and Proton Therapy



Ocular cancers are rare, and they have a high likelihood of cure 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 while minimizing radiation exposure to healthy tissues which in turn reduces the risk of complications.<sup>3</sup>

### Ocular Cancers which benefit from Proton Therapy include:

- Intraocular melanoma: Proton therapy results in excellent eye retention rates, even in less favorable cases.<sup>1</sup>
- Other eye tumors not optimally treated with other forms of radiation, due to tumor size or location.

### Find out more.

To learn more about treatment options for ocular cancers, see [www.SCCAprounotherapy.com](http://www.SCCAprounotherapy.com) or call 877-897-7628.

## What are the Standard Treatment Approaches of Eye Cancers?

The recommended treatment for eye tumors is based on the location and the size of the tumor. There are four treatment approaches for ocular melanoma.

**Laser.** If the tumor is small, laser treatment is sometimes an option.

**Surgical enucleation** (removal of the eye) is usually required if the tumor is very large. Outcomes are excellent for tumor control, but the side effect is the loss of the eye. For additional details, contact an ocular oncologist.

**Brachytherapy.** A large comparative study of patients with medium-size tumors found that brachytherapy was a good equivalent option to enucleation. It is now routinely used to treat all but the largest tumors and reservation of the eye is a priority.<sup>2</sup>

**Proton therapy** is comparative in outcomes to brachytherapy and enucleation. Proton therapy is very effective in achieving local control of the melanoma, and does not worsen survival rates for the patient.<sup>5</sup> It can be used to treat tumors too large for brachytherapy and is well suited to treating tumors next to the optic nerve. Ocular melanoma is one of the earliest uses of proton therapy and has been used to treat ocular cancers in the United States since 1994.

*"My experience at SCCA Proton Therapy Center for the tumor in my eye was both reassuring and pleasant. Dr. Rengan's comprehensive review of my cancer and it's treatment gave me confidence that my problem was manageable. The staff was very pleasant and welcoming and made me feel comfortable each time I arrived for treatment."*

- John L. Baldwin, MD, Ocular Cancer Survivor

## Our Approach

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 before the tumor is also reduced.<sup>3</sup>

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.

- 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 a minute or two, 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.

