

News update

Latest developments on products and services from the industry. To have your news included contact Patricia McDonnell on patricia@oncologynews.biz or Tel/Fax: + 44 (0)288 289 7023.

South African patients treated with RapidArc®

A 66-year-old prostate cancer patient has become the first person in Africa to be treated using RapidArc® technology from Varian Medical Systems. The man received his treatment at the Netcare Unitas Hospital in Centurion, the largest private hospital in sub-Saharan Africa.

The advanced RapidArc system, which has been introduced clinically on the hospital's Varian Clinac® iX medical linear accelerator, delivers precise image-guided IMRT up to four times faster than conventional IMRT. The RapidArc IMRT beam quickly delivers the dose while continuously rotating around the patient.

"The first treatment went very smoothly and was completed in just two and a half minutes," said Stanley Makgere, medical physicist in charge, adding that just two arcs were needed during treatment delivery. "Our team has experience in many treatment methods and we feel this is the best way to



From left to right: Hector Leboea, Colbert Ditsepu, Sonwabile Ngcezu and Stanley Makgere.

treat cancer patients with radiation because it is fast, precise and easy to use."

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First European patients treated with Nucletron's brachytherapy solution



Nucletron and Medisch Spectrum Twente (MST), the Netherlands announce the successful treatment of thirty patients with the advanced solution for brachytherapy, combining Oncentra Brachy for treatment planning and Flexitron for treatment delivery. Patients benefit from the latest innovations in brachytherapy, providing personalised and extremely precise treatments.

With over 25 years experience in treating cancer with brachytherapy, MST decided to move from 2D to 3D planning, thus investing in the next-generation solution for brachytherapy. The main criteria for the switch were the ability of 3D planning with CT and MR-images to identify, accurately, the target volume and organs at risk, and to improve treatment planning for each patient. Other factors included the strong desire to use the interstitial technique for treating gynaecological cancers, as well as future connectivity with External Beam treating planning.

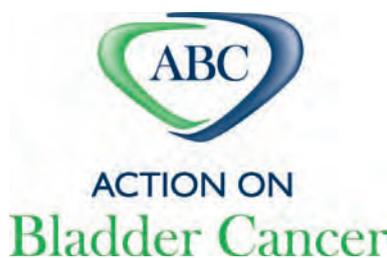
For further information visit:
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Get involved with Action on Bladder Cancer

Action on Bladder Cancer (ABC) is the only UK Charity purely focused on improving the lives of people with bladder cancer. ABC is working with healthcare professionals, patients, their carers and the general public to help improve the treatment and prevention of bladder cancer.

Mr Colin Bunce, Consultant Urologist, Barnet, and Chair of Action on Bladder Cancer says "Greater attention is urgently needed. We are asking healthcare professionals, the public and providers to become involved by working together with ABC to help improve the standard of care for people with bladder cancer."

All professionals and public with an interest in bladder cancer can register their interest in ABC via the website



(www.actiononbladdercancer.org). As the network of ABC supporters grows, so too will the ability to share experiences and learn from colleagues around the country.

For further information or to register with ABC visit www.actiononbladdercancer.org or E: abc@rightangleuk.com

Sharing chemotherapy expertise

New cancer drugs and treatment strategies improve cancer outcomes but put additional strain on already stretched chemotherapy services. Despite the pressures, dedicated NHS staff are successfully redesigning chemotherapy care pathways to improve the quality of patient care.

The UK Chemotherapy Partnership encourages front line staff to share their experience of service redesign. The new website www.ukchemotherapypartnership.org.uk invites NHS staff to contribute examples of best practice in their area, compiling a library of experience that might help others with their own service redesign.

- Shared care models: expert nurses and pharmacists reviewing patients receiving treatment

- Closer to home: New outreach services in District General Hospitals, Community Clinics, and in the patient's home
- Acute oncology: dealing with emergency situations
- Oral chemotherapy: opportunities to streamline services for patients and staff

If you are involved in change that aims to improve the quality and safety of chemotherapy services, in line with the recommendations of the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group (and HDL29 in Scotland), please log on to the website to contribute or to be inspired.

For further information contact Carolyn Maynard E: carolyn.maynard@nhs.net or visit W: www.ukchemotherapypartnership.org.uk



The UK Chemotherapy Partnership Executive Committee: Dermot Ball, John McPhelim, Carolyn Maynard, Roger James, Elaine Lennan.

Russells Hall Hospital to expand its MRI capabilities

Russells Hall Hospital, part of The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has ordered a MAGNETOM® Verio 3T MRI from Siemens Healthcare. The system will provide faster and improved quality imaging, plus enhance patient comfort. It will be used for orthopaedics, neuroimaging, oncology, arterial systems, whole body scans and other screening procedures such as a whole leg or arm in a single run.

The MAGNETOM Verio features a 70cm wide bore that improves patient comfort and reduces scanning anxiety. It accommodates a range of patients such as those with pain and mobility issues. With less anxiety-related movement, sharper images can be captured minimising the need for re-scans.

The system has been ordered by the Trust as part of a Managed Equipment Service (MES) partnership with Summit Healthcare and Siemens Healthcare. Siemens has a 40-



year multi-vendor contract for the maintenance of all medical equipment and the supply and ongoing replacement of solutions including the MAGNETOM Verio. Under an additional 15-year contract, Siemens is providing IT services, including an electronic patient record system and network infrastructure.

For further information visit:
W: www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare

Nikon launches next generation confocal microscope

Nikon Instruments has launched the next generation Confocal Laser Point Scanning Microscope for entry and mid-level confocal imaging. Building on Nikon's superior optical technology, the new modular C2 confocal laser microscope provides increased accuracy and speed. The C2 incorporates the latest version 3.2 release of NIS-Elements C software, providing one, easy-to-use and versatile imaging software platform for complete control with unrivalled imaging options – whether it be confocal or widefield.

Offering excellent hardware and software stability, coupled with first class optics, the C2 confocal laser microscope has three dedicated PMTs for multi-channel imaging. The flexible, modular design offers an easy upgrade to the dedicated 32 channel PMT array for spectral detection. The new system can capture and unmix data acquired at any channel resolution across the entire detector



bandwidth, while an increased number of optically ideal pinholes (from four to six) and electronics improvements increase scanning accuracy and speed; up to a maximum 24fps (512x32) and 4 fps (512x512, bidirectional) have been achieved. An optional four laser module is also available.

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brainstrust launches the Brain Tumour Hub

brainstrust have launched a pioneering charitable initiative, the Brain Tumour Hub, to coincide with Brain Tumour Awareness Month in the UK. The Brain Tumour Hub is the only authoritative online database of brain tumour patient support services available nationally. It has been developed with patient input and with the support of leading neuro healthcare professionals.

brainstrust director, Helen Bulbeck, said: "A common theme that has emerged from our daily interactions with brain tumour patients, their carers and healthcare professionals is that patients often feel uncertain as to whether they have 'turned every stone' in

their search for the best support. We also know that there is currently no dedicated tool that offers a national picture of what's available to brain tumour patients. .

"Our aim with the Brain Tumour Hub is to help patients and carers 'turn every stone' quickly and easily in their search for the best brain tumour support and advice. It is easy to navigate with a simple postcode search facility and translates into an offline tool with options to download and print out results. Users can also filter results to create their own personalised support services contact list."

For further information visit:
www.braintumourhub.org.uk

Varian enables clinical data reporting to support NHS goals



Varian Medical Systems has completed two initiatives aimed at streamlining the input of clinical data in the UK's NHS. The company's ARIA® for MedOncology information system is now compatible with the National Cancer Intelligences Network (NCIN)/National Chemotherapy Advisory Group (NCAG) draft dataset and the Chemotherapy Planning Online Resource Tool (C-PORT).

NCIN draft dataset – The new draft NCIN dataset will aid in providing all stakeholders with the information to measure patient outcomes in real time, plan for future facilities and adjust funding based on accurate and timely data. To ensure compatibility with this draft dataset, Varian received support from two customer facilities acting as pilot sites (Thames Valley and Lancashire Cancer Network), along with advice and support from the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) and NCIN.

C-PORT – Developed for the NHS by Concentra, the C-PORT system is an on-line tool which applies advanced modelling techniques to tackle chemotherapy capacity planning. It will enable all NHS hospitals to produce a 'model' of an entire cancer centre. By inputting all these resources, administrators can calculate the financial and efficiency implications of changes in staffing or equipment.

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Patients in Bangladesh gain access to advanced radiotherapy treatments from Varian

Cancer patients in Bangladesh, a country of 160 million people served by just 11 modern radiotherapy linear accelerators, now have access to advanced radiotherapy technology from Varian Medical Systems. Treatments using fast and efficient RapidArc® technology with respiratory gating have started on a new Clinac® iX medical linear accelerator at the new United Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre in the capital, Dhaka.

"As well as offering great precision and excellent dose distribution, RapidArc enables us to deliver the dose more quickly," says Dr Ayan Basu, head of radiation oncology. "This is a country with long waiting lists for treatment, so RapidArc will help us to treat many patients with advanced radiotherapy techniques. We are delighted to be the first hospital in the country to provide RapidArc for the benefit of our patients."

Doctors at United Hospital have begun



delivering RapidArc on prostate and head/neck cancer patients. The advanced RapidArc system delivers precise image-guided IMRT up to four times faster than conventional IMRT. The RapidArc IMRT beam quickly delivers the dose while continuously rotating around the patient.

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New fast turnaround gene test for hereditary breast cancer

NewGene, a molecular diagnostic company jointly owned by Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Newcastle University, has developed an advanced gene sequencing process to successfully identify all mutations in the coding regions of two genes associated with inherited breast cancer – BRCA1 and BRCA2. In the first application of its type, NewGene is successfully using the Roche 454 GS-FLX platform for complete sequencing of all BRCA genes.

The breakthrough enables high volume testing of gene sequences to be undertaken. As a result the test service can be provided at around half the cost of current NHS breast cancer hereditary testing and has a results turnaround time of as low as four weeks.

The development of this new test opens the way for NHS Trusts to significantly improve the speed and quality of their service



whilst halving the cost per test at the same time. The new hereditary breast cancer test is the first of a planned series of new molecular diagnostic tests that are due to be introduced by NewGene.

For further information visit:
W: www.newgene.org.uk or
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Nottingham University Hospital is first UK user of Elekta's Electronic Medical Record Workspace for IGRT

Delivering Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) effectively and safely involves careful coordination of sophisticated systems, such as the therapy machine, its imaging subsystems and the electronic medical record (EMR) used to schedule and record patient treatments. Clinicians at Nottingham University Hospital are piloting their new IGRT program with SYNERGISTIQ™, Elekta's workflow management system for Elekta Synergy® linear accelerators. Nottingham's Radiotherapy Services Manager, Russell Hart, reports that SYNERGISTIQ is streamlining IGRT by orchestrating MOSAIQ® EMR and Elekta Synergy activities from a single workstation.

"SYNERGISTIQ allows the operator to perform all IGRT functions at one workstation. That includes basic treatment, imaging, image analysis and interacting with MOSAIQ and the cone beam CT. Not only does that increase efficiency, but it also contributes to safety, because radiographers are not distracted by multiple systems. The integration of MOSAIQ in the workflow helps the radiographer associate each patient record with the right IGRT treatment and image data."

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UK'S first Novalis TX™ radiosurgery system launched

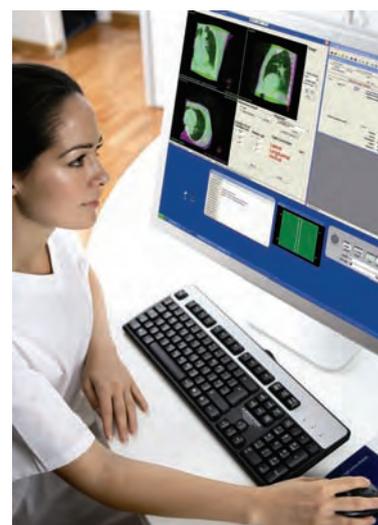


Novalis Tx Radiosurgery is now available to UK patients at the brand new Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, Liverpool, showing the continued investment of the NHS in improving cancer care in England, ensuring patients have access to high precision radiation therapy.

Novalis Tx enables doctors to treat patients with tumours virtually anywhere in the body accurately and painlessly in a single session. Its combination of image-guidance, motion management systems and one of the highest dose rates enables Novalis Tx to destroy cancerous cells whilst protecting surrounding healthy tissue. Treatment is also made more patient-friendly through the use of frameless radiosurgery.

Dr Brian Haylock, Consultant Oncologist and Clinical Director for Radiotherapy at Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology, comments: "Unlike some other highly specialised radiation treatment machines, the Novalis Tx can treat many different types of cancer in different parts of the body allowing us to treat more patients with a single device. This coupled with the speed with which we can treat – in some cases in as little as 15 minutes – means the equipment will be available for the benefit of more patients here in the UK."

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Siemens Healthcare at UK Radiation Oncology Conference

Siemens Healthcare will be showcasing its ARTISTE™ Solution at the UK Radiation Oncology (UKRO) Conference, 11–13th April, on the Upper Level, Stand 1 at Manchester University.

The ARTISTE offers an impressive array of cutting edge technologies enabling all of the necessary information to manage complex radiation therapy protocols to be easily gained without compromising patient safety and comfort. A key feature of the linear accelerator is the 160 MLC™ Multileaf Collimator that offers high resolution, accurate field shaping and better conformity to actual tumour shape. This ensures that the therapeutic dose is delivered precisely to the target area and that the healthy tissue is spared.

With its open design and large patient clearance, the ARTISTE also provides enhanced patient comfort and improved safety. Its stable and precise 550 TxT Treatment Table assures accurate patient positioning and is even suitable for bariatric patients up to 550 lbs.



The ARTISTE™ Solution linear accelerator from Siemens Healthcare will be showcased at UKRO.

“The ARTISTE Solution is a scalable solution that not only provides fast and precise radiation therapy treatment for Oncology departments today, but has a clear upgrade path allowing for changes in clinical scope and future treatment advances,” said Lawrence Foulsham, Molecular Imaging Product Manager at Siemens Healthcare.

For further information visit:
W: www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare

On-line ovarian cancer checker

The first on-line ovarian cancer checker to help GPs and their patients get a speedier diagnosis of the disease is being launched this March by the support charity Ovacome.

The widget, developed by HealthUnlocked, allows women with signs of ovarian cancer, which are often vague and non-specific, to be able to accurately record their severity and persistence.

It can be accessed on Ovacome, NHS Choices, Netmums and Macmillan websites and will prompt the user to record their symptoms every day, which it will score by significance.

Often the symptoms of ovarian cancer – bloating, eating less and abdominal pain – are misdiagnosed as irritable bowel syndrome or menopausal problems. This means that 57% of women have to wait for

ovacome..
the ovarian cancer support network



three months or more after their first visit to the GP to be given a CA125 diagnostic blood test or a scan, with a staggering 16% waiting a year or longer, found Ovacome research.

For further information visit:
www.ovacome.org.uk

Isopropanol alcohol increases cytostatic protection on Berner Gloves

Disinfecting Berner latex gloves with isopropyl alcohol spray before use, significantly increases the breakthrough time for carmustine, the most aggressive cytotoxic preparation used in pharmaceutical preparations.

After spraying, tests confirm that the breakthrough time for isopropanol is 30 minutes, however the breakthrough for carmustine is delayed by 100% from 60 to 120 minutes.

It should be noted that tests are only available for carmustine and other substances should be tested separately.

By lightly spraying the gloves for a

few seconds before use with isopropanol alcohol will effectively increase your protection for cytotoxic handling.

Berner neoprene gloves for latex free areas have even longer breakthrough times for cytotoxics and offer 90 minutes for carmustine without alcohol. These gloves are available aseptically presented in packs of 50. Full breakthrough data is available on request.

For more information and FREE SAMPLES, please call 0800 0328 428.

Inselspital in Bern begins treatments using Varian's TrueBeam™



A leading Swiss cancer clinic has begun delivering advanced radiotherapy treatments using the TrueBeam™ system from Varian Medical Systems. More than 40 patients have been treated with fast, precise radiotherapy and radiosurgery since clinical treatments began.

“Treatments with TrueBeam are very quick and delivered with great precision,” says Professor Daniel Aebbersold, director of radiation oncology at Inselspital, “and studies have shown that increased dose delivery rates can potentially lead to higher cure rates, although this will need to be further validated through longer-term clinical trials.”

“At first we are using TrueBeam mainly for patients with large tumours, such as you often find with cervical cancer, anal cancer and advanced head and neck cancer.” adds Professor Aebbersold.

Designed to advance the treatment of most types of cancer, the TrueBeam platform for image-guided radiotherapy and radiosurgery has been introduced by Varian Medical Systems as the first fully-integrated radiotherapy system designed from the ground up to treat a moving target with speed and precision. Since its introduction more than 170 orders have been placed for TrueBeam systems globally.

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