

# News update

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

## HCG Ahmedabad is first hospital in India to deliver treatments using TrueBeam™

A 65-year-old breast cancer patient has become the first person in India to be treated using the fast and precise TrueBeam™ radiotherapy treatment system from Varian Medical Systems. In a treatment carried out at HCG (Health Care Global) Ahmedabad, the patient received accelerated partial breast irradiation which allowed her treatment course to be completed in a week instead of the usual five weeks required with previous Varian technology.

"The patient was saved from visiting hospital for five full weeks," says radiation oncologist Dr Vivek Bansal. "As the TrueBeam treatment involved high dose rates delivered twice a day, the clinical team needed to be certain that the intended dose was delivered to the right area. A



high degree of accuracy and good quality imaging helped ensure successful completion of the treatment."

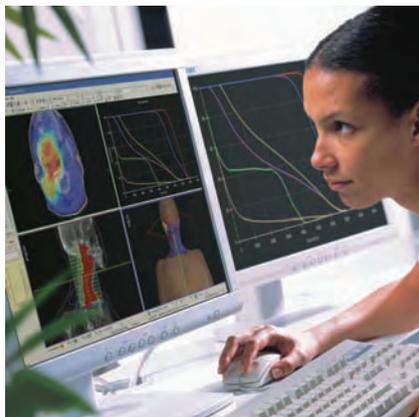
Dr Bansal said shorter treatment times, high quality imaging, and greater throughput were all significant benefits for patients and the clinical team at HCG Ahmedabad. The center, which added radiotherapy to existing surgical and chemotherapy services a month ago, is the first private cancer hospital in Ahmedabad offering both diagnostic and treatment facilities for cancer under one roof. Its patients come from across Gujarat and neighbouring states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, as well as from outside India.

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## Leeds Teaching Hospitals accelerates cancer care with Elekta's Monaco Planning Software

IMRT and VMAT delivery techniques have dramatically reduced treatment times for thousands of patients. An obstacle to offering VMAT to more patients is the time it takes to create a plan. Physicians at St James's University Hospital – the first UK centre to use Monaco® VMAT clinically – have been able to significantly reduce VMAT planning times, increasing the potential to offer this therapy to more patients.

"Our referrals for radiation therapy are increasing considerably," says St James's head of radiotherapy physics Vivian Cosgrove, PhD. "If we can plan complex radiotherapy quickly and deliver treatment more efficiently with VMAT, then we can treat more patients and



derive more benefit from our treatment machines."

Elekta VMAT delivers treatment in one or more continuous high-speed arcs around the patient, enabling the radiation dose to precisely conform to a tumor by modulating the radiation beam's intensity in multiple small volumes.

"Monaco has transformed our IMRT service," he noted. "After contouring, we can complete a complex head-and-neck plan in two to three hours – two to three times quicker than other planning systems we have used."

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## Stago's STA-R Evolution® key to blood services at Leicester

Clinicians at one of New Zealand's leading University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust relies on Stago's STA-R Evolution® instruments for measurement of blood coagulation parameters. Joanne Melbourne, Deputy Laboratory Manager in blood sciences, explained: "We provide blood services across three different sites and have six STA-R Evolution instruments spread between them. Five of the systems are used for routine tests such as fibrinogen and D-dimer, and the remaining instrument is dedicated to the more specialised coagulation tests. When purchasing new coagulation instrumentation, a crucial consideration is that the system must be able to link to a track at our main site – Leicester Royal Infirmary – but also be capable of working as a

stand-alone system at our smaller sites. STA-R Evolution fulfilled all these roles."

"Because we operate over a large site with a lot of staff, it was also important to be able to train people quickly and easily; the STA-R Evolution's user-friendly touch screen plays a key role in this, enabling straightforward operation. We have had the instruments for almost four years now, and in that time have developed a very good relationship with Stago and found the STA-R Evolution to be very robust."

For more information, please contact:  
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## Radiometer's Blood Gas Handbook now available for iPhone® and iPad®

Radiometer's classic publication, The Blood Gas Handbook, is now available as an app for Apple's iPhone, iPod touch® and iPad. Blood gas status plays a key role in assessing the condition of critically ill patients, and this easy-to-use app aids the clinician in evaluating arterial oxygen status based on comprehensive blood gas analysis, including oximetry, and a closely related parameter, lactate.

The evaluation of blood gas parameters can be divided into subgroups – oxygen status, related metabolic parameters and acid-base status – and, as each subgroup consists of



several parameters, the volume of data requiring interpretation can be overwhelming. As well as providing guidance and continuous access to information to assist the clinician with this task, Radiometer's interactive app allows users to add and edit their own reference intervals and to include notes for individual parameters. The blood gas app also has a search function, the capability to zoom in on images, and allows import and export of user-

defined notes and reference intervals via iTunes®. A description of the parameters available on Radiometer's blood gas analysers, plus guides to their evaluation, is also provided.

Radiometer's blood gas app supports both English and Danish, and is available worldwide as a free-of-charge download from the Apple App Store. To date, there have been over 17,000 downloads of the blood gas app.

To find out more, please contact [sales@radiometer.co.uk](mailto:sales@radiometer.co.uk), or download Radiometer's blood gas app at the Apple App Store.

## Varian exhibited TrueBeam™ Treatment System at Dubai World Trade Centre

Varian Medical Systems, a world leader in radiotherapy, exhibited its family of advanced treatment machines and integrated software solutions at the 2012 Arab Health Congress and Exhibition in January 2012. The Varian exhibit (Sheikh Saeed Hall, Booth No. S3-E40) focused on latest developments and future innovations in Varian's complete line of medical linear accelerators – including the fast and precise TrueBeam™ system – along with Eclipse™ treatment planning software, ARIA® oncology information software, proton therapy systems, brachytherapy solutions, and its full range of X-ray tubes and digital image detectors.

Rolf Staehelin, Varian's director international marketing for EMEA and APAC said, "Varian is the clear market leader in radiotherapy and radiosurgery in the Gulf Corporate Council (GCC) countries and is at the forefront of technology advances that help clinicians benefit patients by delivering faster and more efficient treatments."

Designed to advance the treatment of lung, breast, prostate, gynaecologic, liver, head and neck, intracranial and other types of cancer, Varian's TrueBeam™ system was engineered from the ground up to treat tumors with unprecedented speed and accuracy. It features a multitude of technical innovations that dynamically synchronize imaging, patient positioning, motion management, and treatment delivery. With its High Intensity Mode, TrueBeam machines can deliver very high doses quickly and accurately, more than twice as fast as earlier generations of Varian technology.

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## Zeiss IntraBeam® installed at The Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow

Clinical Oncologist Dr Julian Singer and the breast team at St Margaret's Hospital, have installed the state of the art radiotherapy equipment, IntraBeam®, into the operating theatres at Princess Alexandra Hospital. This machine is able to deliver Intra-operative Radiotherapy (IORT).

This is a radically new concept for early breast cancer treatment, whereby a single dose of radiotherapy is delivered directly into the breast following the removal of a tumour before the completion of the operation

For women with smaller breast cancers, IORT avoids women having repetitive



radiotherapy sessions over a three to six weeks period. In most cases travelling long distances to a radiotherapy centre is unnecessary.

The procedure is called TARGETed Intra-operative radiotherapy (TARGET). This procedure has been on trial for over a decade by breast

cancer teams around the world with extremely favourable results recently published in The Lancet. Further research trials are underway for women with larger breast cancers and Dr Singer will be linked up with the research team at University College Hospital London.

For further information visit:  
[w: www.zeiss.co.uk](http://www.zeiss.co.uk)

## East Yorkshire charity secures funds to order Biograph mCT



The Daisy Appeal, a local charity that aims to improve treatment and research opportunities in cancer and heart disease for the people in the Hull and East Yorkshire region, has helped to secure funds for the purchase of a Biograph™ mCT from Siemens Healthcare. It will be installed along with a cyclotron into the purpose built Medical Research Centre at Castle Hill Hospital, part of Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, and aims to be operational by spring 2013.

The mCT hybrid combines cutting-edge CT technology with HD•PET to provide a new depth of information and will assist the Medical Research Centre with earlier patient

diagnosis and greater accuracy in treating cancer, heart disease and neurological diseases including dementia.

"Thanks to invigorated fund raising in the local area we are now in a position to sign a contract with Siemens Healthcare and begin the exciting steps in taking delivery of the Biograph mCT system for go-live in early 2013." explained Nick Stafford, Founder and Chairman of the Trustees at the Daisy Appeal and Professor of Otolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery, at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

For further information visit:  
[www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare](http://www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare)

## Paxman scalp-cooling equipment

Paxman is the World's leading manufacturer of scalp-cooling equipment for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced hair loss. The innovative ORBIS system is the very latest in scalp-cooling technology and has the backing of leading oncologists from across the globe. This revolutionary hair loss prevention system is responsible for helping thousands of people throughout the world not only to keep their hair but to maintain their dignity whilst undergoing chemotherapy.

Scalp cooling works by lowering the temperature of the scalp immediately before, after and during the administration of chemotherapy drugs. This in turn reduces

the blood flow to the hair follicles, thus preventing or minimising damage, meaning that hair loss is not inevitable.

Hair loss is a well-documented side-effect of many chemotherapy regimens. It is often devastating and the fear of hair loss has even been known to cause patients to refuse treatment.

The Paxman system is widely available in NHS and private hospitals throughout the UK and in the past 12 months the company has seen success in more than 20 new markets across Europe, Russia, the Middle East, the Far East and the Americas.

For further information visit:  
[www.paxman-coolers.com](http://www.paxman-coolers.com)



## Brain cancer patient receives first TrueBeam STx treatment in Asia at BGS Global Hospitals in Bangalore

Doctors at BGS Global Cancer Institute in Bangalore have begun delivering advanced radiotherapy treatments using the first clinical Varian TrueBeam™ STx medical linear accelerator in Asia. A 57-year-old female patient with a brain metastasis received whole brain radiotherapy and this will be followed by stereotactic radiosurgical boosts to the lesion using the fast and precise system.

"The whole procedure, the imaging and treatment, was completed within five minutes," says Dr Nirmala Srikantia, senior consultant and chief of radiation oncology services at BGS Global Cancer Institute. "TrueBeam STx gives our oncologists the flexibility to deliver multiple high precision treatments such as this while minimising the time required and, potentially, the inconvenience to the patient."

Global Hospitals has acquired three TrueBeam STx systems for its sites in Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai, because of the rapidly increasing cancer incidence in these major population centers, along with the strength of the neuroscience departments in those hospitals.

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## Test may help reduce unnecessary repeat prostate biopsies

Gen-Probe have announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved its PROGENSA® PCA3 (Prostate Cancer gene 3) assay, the first molecular test to help determine the need for repeat prostate biopsies in men who have had a previous negative biopsy.

"When used in conjunction with other diagnostic information, our PROGENSA PCA3 assay provides clinically important information that helps physicians and their patients make better, more informed decisions about one of the most vexing problems in prostate cancer diagnosis," said Carl Hull, Gen-Probe's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "From a commercial perspective, this is the third of four potential US regulatory approvals that we



expect to generate a significant new sales growth cycle for the Company."

The PROGENSA PCA3 assay is indicated for use in conjunction with other patient information to aid in the decision for repeat biopsy in men from 50 years of age who have had previous negative

prostate biopsies and for whom a repeat biopsy would be recommended by a urologist based on the current standard of care, before consideration of PROGENSA PCA3 assay results. A negative PROGENSA PCA3 assay result is associated with a decreased likelihood of a positive biopsy. A prostate biopsy is required to diagnose cancer.

For further information visit:  
W: [www.gen-probe.com](http://www.gen-probe.com)

## Nucletron offers an all-in-one solution for LDR and HDR prostate brachytherapy

Users treating prostate cancer are now able to access both LDR and HDR brachytherapy together with advanced Robotic delivery technology on a single platform.

For LDR treatments, Oncentra Seeds is a best-in-class brachytherapy system that integrates the latest developments in treatment planning with unique robotic implant technology. Nucletron's prostate solution considerably improves needle and seeds placement accuracy, resulting in superior treatment outcomes.

Advantages of this unique robotic implant technology include eliminating any manual handling of seeds, minimising unnecessary radiation exposure to staff and precise reproducible seed delivery. This results in the right dose being delivered to the right place, guaranteeing reliable and accurate treatment delivery.

Integrated in a compact mobile cart, Oncentra Seeds provides convenient access to workspace and network connections. Oncentra Seeds supports any type of seeds and application method, complete with



customised isotopes and template types. This flexibility makes the Oncentra Seeds adaptable to any environment.

The seedSelectron™ is a unique robotic seeds delivery device designed to improve the permanent seed implantation process. It automatically delivers radioactive seeds to accurately match the planned seed configuration according to the latest and online adopted treatment plan.

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## Varian Books \$77 Million order to equip Proton Treatment Center in Saudi Arabia

Varian Medical Systems recently announced it has booked a \$77 million order with Saudi Particle Therapy Centre LLC to equip a new proton therapy facility at the King Fahd Medical Center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Varian will equip the new center with a ProBeam™ system for five treatment rooms as well as two TrueBeam™ medical linear accelerators. Equipment delivery and installation is expected to commence in spring 2013 and patient treatments are scheduled to begin in late 2014. The agreement will also include a multi-year service contract that should commence as the installation is completed.

"We are honoured to have been selected to supply our equipment and software for this prestigious new facility, which will make life-saving proton therapy treatments available for the first time to cancer patients in this region," says Tim Guertin, Varian's chief executive officer. "This is an exciting step forward for our Varian Particle Therapy business."

Proton therapy makes it possible to treat certain types of cancer more precisely and with potentially fewer side effects than with conventional radiation therapy. With proton therapy, the risk of damage to healthy tissues is reduced. The method can be applied



for many of the most common types of cancer and offers advantages when treating tumors close to radiosensitive tissues.

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