With pinpoint precision, the high-resolution beam shaper targets radiation directly at cancerous tumors and other benign tumors. This sophisticated technology allows for more uniform doses of radiation in a much shorter period of time.

TREATING NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Treating neurological conditions (those affecting the brain) has long been difficult. Shaped Beam Radiation Therapy now allows physicians to reach those tumors and lesions that are not surgically accessible. Shaped Beam can be used to treat a variety of neurological conditions such as:

- benign brain tumors and malignant brain tumors (gliomas)
- metastatic tumors or recurrent brain tumors
- arteriovenous malformations or AVM (masses of abnormal blood cells in the brain)
- trigeminal neuralgia (extremely painful inflammation of the largest nerve in the skull, the trigeminal nerve)
- acoustic neuromas (benign, non-cancerous, often slow-growing tumor of the eighth cranial nerve that connects the inner ear to the brain)
- pituitary adenomas (abnormal growth, or tumor, in the pituitary gland)

The patient lies on a robotic couch that automatically aligns the radiation beams with the tumors. No invasive head frame is needed. The system continuously shapes the beams to match the size and shape of the tumors from all angles. This ensures that the tumors receive the fully prescribed dose of radiation. The surrounding normal tissue as well as delicate structures such as the brainstem, spinal cord and optic nerves are spared.

Treatment time varies from 15 to 45 minutes. (And for some patients, only one treatment session may be needed.) It is a painless, outpatient procedure so patients go home the same day.

St. Peter’s is the only facility in the greater Capital Region to offer this advanced technology.

To learn more about Shaped Beam, call St. Peter’s Physician Referral & Information Line at 525-2-CARE (525-2227).