



CGRMC, CTSA Unite as First in the State of Arizona to Deliver Breakthrough Breast Cancer Treatment

Casa Grande, Arizona - On September 30, 2011, Casa Grande Regional Medical Center (CGRMC) and Cancer Treatment Services Arizona (CTSA) were the first in the state of Arizona to perform a new breakthrough treatment for early stage breast cancer. In two different procedures that day, surgeons Joyce Bonenberger, MD, and Ramon Mourelo, MD, each performed a surgical removal of a breast tumor. This procedure was immediately followed by a therapeutic dose of radiation while the patient was still in the operating room by Radiation Oncologist Ajay Bhatnagar, MD, from CTSA. Following the radiation treatment, the surgery was completed. Dr. Bhatnagar explains, "By delivering the radiation at the time of surgery, these patients will only receive this single dose of radiation to treat their breast cancer, greatly reducing treatment and recovery time."

When asked about the benefits of this new procedure, called Intra-Operative Radiation Therapy (IORT), Dr. Bonenberger stated, "Typically, for women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer, breast cancer treatment can take as little as one week or as long as seven weeks to complete. This new treatment may especially benefit patients who do not live in close proximity to a cancer treatment facility since it is completed in one day."

The dose of radiation is delivered during the course of surgery with CTSA's Xofigo[®] Axxent[®] Electronic Brachytherapy (eBx[™]) System, a treatment machine that is easily transported from CTSA to CGRMC due to its portability and minimal shielding requirements. The entire treatment takes place in one location during the course of a two hour surgical procedure, so patients do not have to undergo daily outpatient radiation therapy in the following weeks. Dr. Mourelo added, "This is an amazing development in early stage breast cancer treatment and should revolutionize recovery time for our patients who qualify."

CGRMC and CTSA are one of ten centers piloting this new treatment and the only location in Arizona to do so. Candidates for the procedure must be women at least 45 years of age with a breast tumor less than 3 cm in diameter that has not spread beyond the breast tissue. The study will assess cancer recurrence, serious adverse events, and cosmetic results following Intra-operative Radiation Therapy (IORT).

About Casa Grande Regional Medical Center

Casa Grande Regional Medical Center is a 187-bed, not-for-profit community hospital providing full-service care to Casa Grande and the communities of western Pinal County. CGRMC also provides a full range of outpatient services, including Urgent Care coverage seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and a 24-hour Emergency Department. CGRMC is a partner in healthcare, providing education and resources to the community. For more information, visit casagrandehospital.com or call 520-381-6300.

About Cancer Treatment Services International Inc.

Cancer Treatment Services International Inc. (CTSI Inc.) is a provider of comprehensive treatment for cancer patients with a main focus on medical oncology and radiation oncology. The company was founded by a core group of physicians and businessmen with substantial experience in the development, operation and networking of cancer services on a national and international level. CTSI is able to provide innovative and technologically-advanced treatment solutions to areas of the world where therapy is currently inadequate in either quality or capacity. The company currently operates clinics and has development projects both in the U.S. and internationally. <http://www.cancertreatmentservices.com>

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