

## CTSA Doctor Selected to Present at ASTRO Second Year in a Row



June 2, 2011

Cancer Treatment Services Arizona (CTSA) is pleased to announce that Ajay Bhatnagar, M.D., will be presenting his research findings on Electronic Brachytherapy (EBT) at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), held October 2-6, 2011 in Miami Beach, Florida. This is the second year in a row that Dr. Bhatnagar has received this honor.

Dr. Bhatnagar's study was chosen from a record-breaking 2,437 abstracts submitted for review to be presented at the meeting, which is the largest gathering of radiation oncology specialists in the world. His study, titled "Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Treated with Electronic Brachytherapy: Results at One-Year," is a follow up to the study he presented at the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual ASTRO meeting in 2010, "The Initial Experience of Electronic Brachytherapy for the Treatment of Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer."

EBT is most often used in the treatment of skin, breast and gynecological cancers, and delivers a therapeutic dose of radiation without the use of radioactive isotopes. The procedure has reduced shielding requirements as compared to traditional brachytherapy, allowing medical personnel to remain with the patient during treatment.

The study Dr. Bhatnagar presented in 2010 examined patients diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer who were treated with EBT at CTSA. EBT was found in the short-term to have favorable cosmetic outcomes and minimal adverse side effects. The follow-up study that Dr. Bhatnagar will present this October found that one year after treatment with EBT, cosmetic outcomes were still favorable, and most adverse side effects were resolved after six months.

Dr. Bhatnagar has been CTSA's Radiation Oncologist since the facility opened in 2007. He earned his M.D. at the University of Pittsburgh and completed his post-graduate training in radiation oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. He currently holds an academic appointment at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine as an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology. As the recipient of a seed grant from ASTRO, Dr. Bhatnagar conducted the first patient preference study in the United States for radiation oncologists. The highly-publicized study, titled "What Do Patients Want from Their Radiation Oncologist," has been covered by CNN, WebMD and the Associated Press.

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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>

About American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)

ASTRO is the largest radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 10,000 members who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, biology and physics, the Society is dedicated to improving patient care through education, clinical practice, advancement of science and advocacy. For more information on radiation therapy, visit [www.rtanswers.org](http://www.rtanswers.org). To learn more about ASTRO, visit [www.astro.org](http://www.astro.org).

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