

## CTSA Is Now Treating Patients with HDR Brachytherapy



September 12, 2008

Cancer Treatment Services Arizona (CTSA) is proud to announce that beginning in September 2008, CTSA will offer High Dose-Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy, an advanced treatment modality that delivers a powerful dose of radiation directly to the tumor site. This treatment option, which is the only one of its kind offered in Pinal County, Arizona, enables clinicians to use precisely planted radiation sources to deliver the radiation beam with unprecedented accuracy, allowing for maximum dosage to the tumor, while sparing surrounding healthy tissue and minimizing side effects. Clinicians at CTSA will use the HDR Afterloader, from Varian™ Medical Systems, Inc. to treat patients using HDR Brachytherapy.

Brachytherapy is a vital treatment modality that can be used to treat a variety of cancer disease sites, including gynecological, breast, skin and lung cancers. HDR is a relatively new and rapidly emerging form of brachytherapy, which allows the patient to receive their treatment in an outpatient setting with no radiation exposure to personnel or family members. "These are major advantages compared to the traditional brachytherapy, called Low Dose Rate (LDR), that often required inpatient admission to a hospital with highly shielded rooms in order to limit radiation exposure," said Ajay Bhatnagar, MD, at CTSA. "HDR Brachytherapy will now allow us to treat these patients in a convenient community setting. Additionally, we have access to advanced HDR Brachytherapy planning software that allows us to optimize the radiation dose, in order to achieve the desired target dose, while minimizing exposure to the surrounding critical structures."

CTSA's first patient was successfully treated using HDR Brachytherapy on September 12, 2008. "The patient received HDR Brachytherapy for her uterine cancer in order to deliver intracavitary brachytherapy to the vaginal cuff. The procedure was successfully performed in a timely fashion without any complications," said Dr. Bhatnagar.

"We are very fortunate to offer patients this advanced technology in Casa Grande, as this level of cancer care is typically only offered in larger cities or at academic medical centers," said Susan Vannoni, Director of Operations at Cancer Treatment Services Arizona. "HDR Brachytherapy will only enhance the advanced technologies that we offer at Cancer Treatment Services Arizona. In my opinion, we have the best in the west; the best staff, the best technology, and most importantly, the best patient care."

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### About Cancer Treatment Services International, L.P.

Cancer Treatment Services International L.P. (CTSI L.P) 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>