

CTSA Begins Treating Cancer Patients Using Fast, Precise RapidArc™ Radiotherapy Technology



September 8, 2008

Palo Alto—September 8, 2008 - Doctors at Cancer Treatment Services Arizona, located in Casa Grande, Arizona, began treating cancer patients this month with the new, highly precise RapidArc™ radiotherapy technology from Varian Medical Systems. Kathryn Rigby, 88, who is battling a gynecological malignancy, was the first patient to benefit from the technology, which quickly delivers an image-guided IMRT treatment that focuses precisely on the tumor and preserves the surrounding healthy tissues.

"I was concerned about whether a RapidArc plan would be fast enough to treat this patient," said Ajay Bhatnagar, MD, the Cancer Treatment Services Arizona physician in charge of Kathryn's case. "Treating a patient's pelvic region can take nearly 35 minutes a day using traditional IMRT, and Mrs. Rigby's lung condition would have precluded her from tolerating such a long time spent immobilized on the treatment table. I was startled to find we could complete her daily treatment sessions using RapidArc in just 90 seconds per day."

"Our family is pleased with the treatment she's receiving," said Rigby's son David, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and earlier tours of duty. "We're all happy that we were able to find a treatment that could help her. She's looking forward to meeting her new great-grandchild, who was born earlier this year."

RapidArc delivers advanced image-guided, intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) treatments two to eight times faster than is possible with earlier radiotherapy technologies. The treatments are delivered with just a single 360 degree rotation of the treatment machine around the patient.

Treatment planning comparisons show that in many cases, RapidArc concentrates the dose more closely on the tumor than conventional fixed beam treatments. Additionally, studies show that faster treatments can help to minimize the effects of tumor motion during treatment, and potentially lead to a higher cancer cell kill rate.

Due to the speed and accuracy of RapidArc treatments, Dr. Bhatnagar will be able to offer high-quality cancer care to more patients in the course of a day.

RapidArc radiotherapy technology has now been used for the treatment of prostate, head and neck, lung, brain, spine, bone, gynecological, and soft tissue cancers. The American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2008 there will be 78,490 new cases of gynecological cancer in the United States, with over 1,000 of those occurring in Arizona.

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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>