

## UCSD Radiation Oncology South Bay Commences Treating their First Cancer Patient Using RapidArc™ Radiotherapy Technology, a Fast, Precise Cancer Treatment



August 17, 2009

*Technology from Varian Medical Systems has potential to improve cancer care while reducing the cost of treatment*

UCSD Radiation Oncology South Bay in Chula Vista, CA, has commenced treating cancer patients using RapidArc™ radiotherapy technology, a fast, precise form of treatment using the latest cancer care technology from Varian Medical Systems. The center is the first in the San Diego region to offer RapidArc technology, which is two to eight times faster than conventional forms of radiotherapy.

"We are pleased to be the first in bringing this breakthrough technology to the community of Chula Vista," said Ramez Farah, M.D., Medical Director of UCSD Radiation Oncology South Bay. "This highly precise technology delivers Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT) faster than any other type of radiation therapy while sparing the surrounding healthy tissues. The speed and accuracy of this technology makes treatment easier on the patient because they do not need to hold still for as long therefore allowing the patient to be more comfortable and improving their quality of care."

UCSD South Bay's RapidArc radiotherapy treatment is delivered with just a single rotation of the treatment machine around the patient. During the rotations the treatment beam is continually shaped and reshaped according to the size, shape, and position of the tumor within the body.

The beam shaping is accomplished using a beam-shaping device called a multi-leaf collimator (MLC). This device has 120 computer-controlled mechanical "leaves" or "fingers" that move to create apertures of different shapes and sizes. During a RapidArc treatment, specialized software algorithms vary three parameters simultaneously: the spread of rotation around the patient, the shape of the MLC aperture, and the dose delivery rate.

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 treatment times can help to minimize the effects of tumor motion during treatment, and potentially lead to a greater rate in destroying cancerous cells.

“UCSD Radiation Oncology South Bay is pleased to become a part of the Chula Vista community. We are proud to offer leading edge technology, including RapidArc, in the fight against cancer,” said Teresa Langley, Director of Operations.

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 the State of California, there will be 140,815 new cancer cases diagnosed in 2009.

For more information regarding UCSD Radiation Oncology South Bay or to make an appointment, please contact (619) 502-7730.

Contact Information

UCSD Radiation Oncology South Bay

959 Lane Avenue

Chula Vista, CA 91914

*p.* (619) 502.7730

*f.* (619) 502.7740

*e.* [tlangley@ucsd.edu](mailto:tlangley@ucsd.edu)

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>