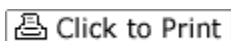




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Health Matters: Radio Frequency Ablation

Triston Sanders - Medical Anchor

Radio frequency ablation is a minimally invasive treatment for cancer. This type of treatment uses radio waves, which generates heat instead of radiation to kill cancer.

In this Health Matters we take a look at this procedure and discover when it is used and how the new radiation treatment tomotherapy often takes its place.

Radiation oncologist David Cho says the heat that is created with radio frequency ablation is for a specific location and ultimately results in the death of the unwanted tumor.

"The goal of the procedure is to ablate or kill off areas of tumor, usually in the liver," he explains.

Liver tumors have been the main target of radio frequency ablation in the past, but now an even better technology has come along to help fight this type of cancer.

"We feel that we can do it better with tomotherapy targeting multiple lesions in the liver."

Some oncologists, like Eric Rost, consider tomotherapy to be superior to all other forms of radiation that are available today.

Dr. Eric Rost says, "Tomotherapy is a program that uses an entirely new system of delivering radiation. It's a helical spiral treatment that we can avoid all normal tissues and treat only the areas that we want to do."

Best of all, tomotherapy gives hope to some cancer patients where they've been told that there's not much doctor can do for them.

"It's especially applicable in patients who have been told that they have inoperable or untreatable cancer, no longer is this untreatable."

Radio frequency ablation may still be used when tumors are not responding to radiation therapy or chemo. These different types of treatment options are allowing for patients to have more choices when it comes to fighting their cancer.

There are only a limited number of facilities that offer tomotherapy treatment. Capital Regional Medical Center in Tallahassee is one of them.

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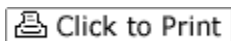
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