

Tiny beads, bigger doses, fewer side effects

BRCH offers innovative treatment for liver cancer

Boca Raton Community Hospital is proud to be the first hospital in Palm Beach, Broward and Martin counties to offer a new outpatient treatment for primary liver cancer patients who cannot be treated with surgery.



George Khoriaty, MD



Carlos Vargas, MD

The treatment, called TheraSphere*, uses tiny radioactive glass beads, or microspheres, to deliver radiation that attacks and destroys cancerous tumor cells in the liver. Primary liver cancer means the cancer has originated in the liver and did not migrate there from another part of the body. TheraSphere is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma, the most prevalent form of primary liver cancer. BRCH is one of only three hospitals in the state to offer the treatment.

"This is a tremendous step forward for patients in our area who have been diagnosed with liver cancer," says George Khoriaty, MD, interventional radiologist on staff at BRCH. "TheraSphere is a much better alternative than traditional embolization for patients with liver cancer."

HOW DOES IT WORK?

TheraSphere, an injectable therapeutic device, allows radiation to be delivered directly to the tumor from within the body with doses that are significantly higher than what is possible from traditional

external radiation therapies.

Dr. Khoriaty, along with radiation oncologist Carlos Vargas, MD, and hospital chief of brachytherapy and physicist Zoubir Ouhib, administer the treatment to patients using a team approach.

"We try to optimize the delivery by employing a high number of spheres to cover the target and get the best results clinically," Dr. Vargas says. "The entire process takes about two to three weeks of treatment preparation to ensure delivery of the appropriate dose to the patient."

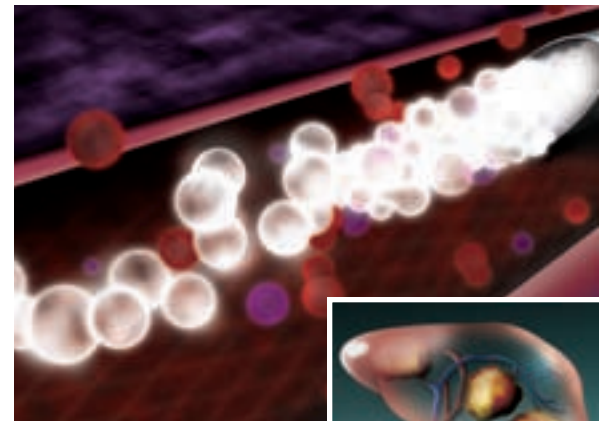
Dr. Khoriaty inserts the catheter into the patient's liver, while Ouhib and Dr. Vargas calculate the precise amount of seeds necessary. Dr. Vargas then inserts the seeds directly into the catheter, which takes them to the liver.

The treatment is given on an outpatient basis, and patients usually do not have to stay overnight in the hospital. Following treatment, patients rarely experience the fatigue, nausea and vomiting usually associated with high-dose, systemic chemotherapy.

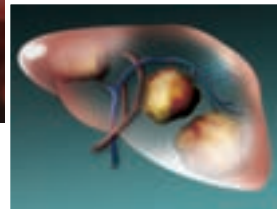
"By offering this new, state-of-the-art treatment, Boca Raton Community Hospital continues to demonstrate its commitment to providing the highest quality cancer care to this community," Dr. Khoriaty says.

HOPE FOR A SERIOUS SITUATION

According to the American Cancer Society, in 2008, there were 21,370 new cases of liver cancers diagnosed in the United States, including hepatocellular carcinoma. More than 18,410 people will



TheraSphere uses tiny glass beads to deliver radiation that attacks or destroys cancerous tumor cells.



die from these cancers, and the numbers are expected to grow. One of the reasons is the increase of hepatitis C, which can lead to hepatocellular carcinoma. The American Liver Foundation has indicated that more than 4 million Americans have been infected with hepatitis C, which is responsible for 8,000 to 10,000 deaths annually.

"As primary liver cancer rates continue to increase, we believe TheraSphere offers physicians an innovative alternative to traditional therapies," says Chris Wagner, senior vice president, MDS Nordion, manufacturer and supplier of TheraSphere.

"The treatment is a great option for patients that are not surgical candidates or while they wait for a liver transplant," Dr. Vargas says.

To learn if TheraSphere could be a treatment option for you, talk to your physician or cancer specialist. You can also read more about the treatment at www.therasphere.com.

*TheraSphere is a trademark of Theragenics Corporation used under license by MDS (Canada) Inc. MDS Nordion division.



Find out more about TheraSphere at BRCH at **561.95.LEARN (561.955.3276)**. You may also call this number for a free physician referral.