

October 1, 2014

Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre to treat more patients

The Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre at Campbelltown Hospital is one of the first Hospitals in Australia to begin treating patients with a new, advanced radiation therapy treatment machine.

The first patients to be treated with the new Elekta Versa HD radiation therapy system were scheduled today.

The addition of the system means the Centre is able to increase its capacity to treat more cancer patients.

Director of Radiation Oncology for Macarthur and Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centres, Dr Dion Forstner, said the upgrade will allow the more than 500 cancer patients who are treated with radiation therapy in the centre each year to receive even more advanced treatment than ever before.

“This new technology gives much better imaging of patients during their treatment, to really focus on their tumours,” he said.

“The machine also allows for stereotactic radiation therapy, which allows a high dose of radiation therapy to be delivered to treat small areas with fewer treatments for particular tumours.

“This is less invasive than surgery, and allows us to treat areas that are difficult to access through surgery, like the liver or lungs.”

Dr Forstner said the new machine will improve access for patients of the Macarthur region to radiation therapy and not only allow staff to treat patients with more precision, but will also allow more patients to be treated.

“We’re expecting an increased capacity of about 30 per cent,” he said.

“With a growing and ageing population, this increased efficiency will really make a difference.

“One in two patients with cancer should have radiation therapy at some time following diagnosis, whereas less than one in three currently receives it.

“So we now have the capacity to meet an increase in demand as well as to allow us to enrol more patients in important research trials.”

MEDIA:

Allan Fowler, Macarthur Cancer Therapy Centre Radiation Oncologist and Acting Director of Radiation Oncology will be available for interview about the new technology, and one of the first patients will be available for interview and photo at 10:30am.