

# Advanced Technology + Expert Clinicians

Vasek Polak Radiation Therapy Center is vital part of new Cancer Centers

For patients with cancer, radiation therapy is often an essential component of the treatment plan. With the opening of the Vasek Polak Radiation Therapy Center in the new John Wayne Cancer Centers on the Garden Level of the Howard Keck Center, patients will now have access to the most advanced treatment equipment available.

“We are very excited to be one of the few centers in the nation with the Varian Trilogy with Rapid Arc™,” said Robert Wollman, MD, a board-certified radiologist at Saint John’s Health Center. “This technology allows very complex treatments to be delivered in just five minutes or less, precisely to the targeted area, sparing healthy tissue. This is in contrast to older technology that required a 20- to 30-minute treatment to achieve the same results.

“In addition to radiation therapy, the Trilogy with Rapid Arc allows for the performance of stereotactic radiosurgery on the brain and the entire body, including the lung, spine and liver,” Dr. Wollman continued. “This is a major treatment advance that offers a noninvasive approach for many cancers that would otherwise require surgery.”

The Trilogy is just one treatment option offered at the Center. “While



PAUL SONG, MD

we are very excited about the Trilogy with Rapid Arc technology, we also have a full range of radiation therapy treatment options, including brachytherapy—the implantation of temporary or permanent radioactive seeds for the treatment of prostate and breast cancer,” noted Lisa Chaiken, MD, a board-certified radiation oncologist who recently joined the Saint John’s staff after 16 years of practice in Santa Monica. “In addition, we have extensive skin cancer experience and a wonderful superficial radiation machine specifically used for the skin. Most other facilities use electrons for skin cancers, an approach that treats more healthy tissue and often results in less attractive outcomes.”

The location of the new Vasek Polak Radiation Therapy Center also provides a number of added benefits. “The Vasek Polak Radiation Therapy Center is just steps away from the Margie Petersen Breast Center, which makes it extremely convenient for patients and allows for easy communication among oncologists,” said Paul Song, MD, a Saint John’s board-certified radiation oncologist who recently relocated from Chicago. Dr. Song has extensive experience with prostate brachytherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery, and has published several articles on the treatment of prostate cancer and brain tumors. “I’m particularly excited about working with Daniel F. Kelly, MD, Director of the Brain Tumor Center, and Armin Kassam, MD, Director of the Neuroscience Institute, using our Rapid Arc equipment to treat brain cancers,” he added. ■

For more information, call 1-800-STJOHNS or visit [www.cancercenters.newstjohns.org](http://www.cancercenters.newstjohns.org).

“We are very excited to be one of the few centers in the nation with the Varian Trilogy with Rapid Arc™. This technology allows very complex treatments to be delivered in just five minutes or less, precisely to the targeted area, sparing healthy tissue.”

—Robert Wollman, MD