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connexions

SPECIALIZED CARE FOR BRAIN METASTASES AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET

The Robert and Andrée Rhéaume Fitzhenry Brain Metastases Program uses advanced treatment strategies to manage tumours that have spread to the brain. A multidisciplinary team of radiation oncologists, neurosurgeons, radiation therapists, and nurses work with patients to explore surgical and radiation therapy options, as well as cutting-edge, novel therapies through participation in clinical trials. Given the urgent nature of a brain metastasis diagnosis, the clinic aims to see patients **within one week of referral**, with treatment beginning the following week.

We offer treatment for brain metastases using our Gamma Knife Icon. The Gamma Knife Icon is a state-of-the-art treatment device developed at the Princess Margaret. The Icon uses stereotactic radiosurgery to target multiple lesions during a single procedure with high precision. The Icon delivers mask-based treatment, eliminating the need for a metal frame and surgical pins. This innovative device expands treatment options and makes treatment more comfortable for patients.

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Gamma Knife Icon (Image Courtesy of Elekta)

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HOW TO REFER PATIENTS

Click here for the [Brain Metastases Clinic Referral Form](#).

For more information, visit the [Brain Metastasis Clinic](#) website.

Referrals to the [Radiation Medicine Program](#) can also be made by faxing a [new patient referral form](#) to: (416) 946-4657.

See page 2 for more information.



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Co-Director, Brain Metastases Clinic

Catherine Coolens PhD,
Medical Physicist

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Radiation Oncologist

Photographs taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have several clinical trials open for patients with brain metastases. These include an international randomized trial sponsored by the Canadian Clinical Trials Group that is testing the benefit of stereotactic radiosurgery versus whole brain radiation for patients with up to 15 brain metastases ([CE.7, NCT03550391](#)). We have another multi-institutional trial open for patients who require surgery and radiotherapy for brain metastases ([NCT03368625](#)). In addition, we have trials available only at Princess Margaret for Canadian patients, including a study of cognitive function in patients before and after treatment for brain metastases ([NCT03606421](#)).

PERSON-CENTRED RADIATION THERAPY AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET

The person-centred model of care in radiation therapy tailors care around individual patients to improve patient outcomes and experiences. Compared to the standard model of care, which involves multiple radiation therapists (RTs) throughout the treatment pathway, patients are partnered with a **single radiation therapist** for their entire radiation therapy journey. Patients receive one-on-one consultations and education sessions with the radiation therapist assigned to their care. This radiation therapist serves as a “case-expert” for the patient alongside the multidisciplinary treatment team of radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, medical physicists, and nurses, guiding the radiation treatment pathway and personalizing care to meet the unique needs of each individual patient. As such, the case-expert can make recommendations based on the patient’s specific preferences and response to treatment. This person-centred model enhances continuity of care, system navigation, healthcare provider relationships, overall patient experience, leading to increased patient engagement and improving outcomes.

The Princess Margaret is leading a prospective, randomized clinical trial to assess the impact of the person-centred model of care on patients with localized breast cancer receiving radiation therapy. The Person-centered Evolution of Radiotherapy Services in Ontario (PERSON) study ([NCT04507568](#)) will evaluate patient-reported outcomes and experience measures to inform future directions for the care model.

For more information about this trial, please contact RMP Research Referrals (RMP-ResearchReferrals@rmp.uhn.ca) or directly contact one of our breast radiation oncologists (listed below).

Standard Radiation Therapy Model



The standard model of radiation therapy involves multiple radiation therapists (RTs) in a single patient’s care.

Patient-Centred Radiation Therapy Model at the Princess Margaret



The person-centred model of radiation therapy pairs a single radiation therapist (RT) with an individual patient for the entire treatment pathway.

HOW TO REFER PATIENTS

There are many easy ways to have your patients seen at the Princess Margaret’s Radiation Medicine Program. You can fax a [referral form](#) to:

1. The Princess Margaret’s New Patient Referral Centre at: (416) 946-2900, or
2. Our Radiation Oncology referral coordinators at: (416) 946-4657

Any questions regarding referrals can be directed to our referral coordinators (listed on page 4). For more information, please see our [Referral Process Guide](#).



Photograph taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Contact us or join our mailing list at
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BREAST RADIATION ONCOLOGY TEAM

HOW TO FIND US

FOR YOUR REFERRALS

We offer three ways to facilitate your requests for consultation:

1. Site Group Coordinators

Site group coordinators serve as a liaison for referring physicians, radiation oncologists and the Princess Margaret Patient Referral Centre.

2. Princess Margaret New Patient Referral Centre

Tel: 416.946.4575
Fax: 416.946.2900

3. Direct to Specific Radiation Oncologists

Referrals to specific radiation oncologists should be directed to site group coordinators.

Palliative Radiation Oncology Program (PROP)

Direct palliative radiation referral patients to our PROP coordinator. Within 24 hours, you will be contacted with an appointment. Patients will be seen within a few days.
PROPreferrals@rmp.uhn.ca

Coordinator **Melanie Robson**
Tel: 416.946.2901
Fax: 416.946.4657
melanie.robson@rmp.uhn.ca

Leader **Dr. Aisling Barry**
Tel: 416.946.2132
aisling.barry@rmp.uhn.ca

Emergencies For patients requiring same day consultations (e.g. spinal cord compression), please contact our Palliative Radiation Oncology referral coordinator (416.946.2901) who will identify the radiation oncologist that is best able to respond to your requests.

After-Hour Requests

Please page the radiation oncologist on call through the switchboard at 416.946.2000.

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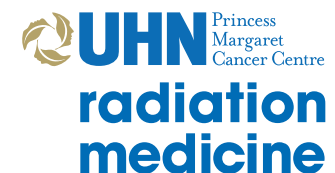
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