

Palliative Radiotherapy and Oligometastasis Program (PROP) Team

Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network

connexions

PALLIATIVE RADIOTHERAPY & OLIGOMETETS CARE AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET

In January 2023, the Palliative Radiation Oncology Program (PROP) at the Princess Margaret was re-launched as the **Palliative Radiotherapy and Oligometastasis Program**. In addition to offering rapid access to palliative radiotherapy for painful/symptomatic lesions, PROP will comprehensively evaluate patients for locally ablative metastasis-directed radiotherapy to treat individual metastatic lesions. This technique is known as stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) or stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). It is a highly conformal radiation treatment that delivers high doses of radiation to the tumour while minimizing dosage to healthy surrounding organs.

The treatment paradigm for patients with limited sites of metastatic cancer (termed oligometastasis) is evolving. With advancements in systemic therapy and radiotherapy technology, we can use metastasis-directed ablative radiotherapy to eradicate individual metastatic lesions in the bone, liver, lung, and brain. Compelling data suggest that targeted ablative radiotherapy may delay disease progression and improve patient survival.

Moving forward, the PROP team at the Princess Margaret will focus on three key themes to advance care in patients with metastatic cancer:

1. Redefine the role of radiation therapy in patients with metastatic cancer through innovative technology, personalized treatment, and multi-disciplinary collaboration,
2. Improve symptom control and patient-centred care, and
3. Use radiotherapy to prevent future cancer-related symptoms.

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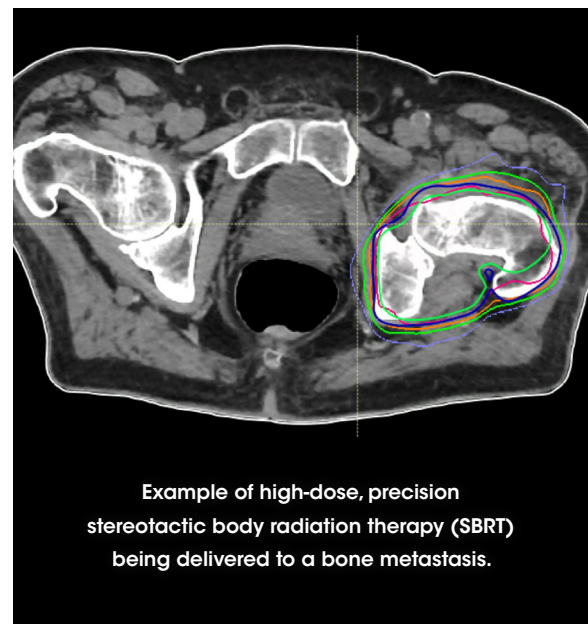
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Example of high-dose, precision stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) being delivered to a bone metastasis.

COVER STORY CONTINUED

We have several clinical trials open for patients with metastases. These include a non-randomized interventional study testing the efficacy of SBRT for patients with breast and genitourinary cancer with oligoprogression ([NCT04122469](#)). We have another trial open that evaluates SBRT outcomes in patients with lung metastasis ([NCT01803542](#)). In addition, we also have a prospective randomized phase III trial of SBRT in patients with oligoprogressive metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer, expected to open in 2023.



C. Jillian Tsai MD PhD, Radiation Site Group Lead, PROP



Laura Dawson MD, Radiation Oncologist



Edward Taylor PhD, Medical Physicist



Joanna Javor MRT(T), Radiation Therapist

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

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

PALLIATIVE RADIOTHERAPY & OLIGOMETASTASIS PROGRAM TEAM

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OCEAN EREFERRAL

AT THE PRINCESS MARGARET

The Princess Margaret has launched a new platform for electronic referrals, or “eReferral”. This digital solution will offer the option to replace the paper or faxed referrals entering UHN from participating community sites. This go-live represents the first phase of a UHN-wide rollout of eReferral, which aims to improve the referral experience for patients, caregivers, referring providers, and care teams through enhanced digital communication. UHN and PM will continue to accept paper or faxed referrals from health care providers who wish to continue with existing referral processes.

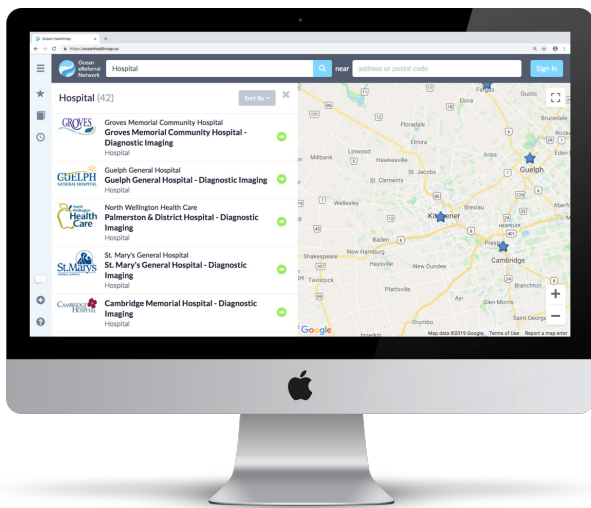
With Ocean, referring providers will have a streamlined referral process with clear referral pathways and guidelines, as well as notifications and live status updates to Ocean-integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems. Referring health care practitioners can request a specific consultant, or the earliest available provider. Patients will receive email notifications across the complete referral-to-appointment scheduling pathway.

ALREADY USING OCEAN EREFERRAL?

Send your next referral to the Radiation Medicine Program through the [Ocean Health Map listing](#).

NOT USING OCEAN EREFERRAL YET?

Make the shift today by visiting [Ontario eServices Program](#) or contacting: eReferralTorontoregion@uhn.ca



Ocean
eReferral
Network

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Contact us or join our mailing list at
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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 Radiotherapy & Oligometastasis Program:

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

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Leader **Dr. C. Jillian Tsai**

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Emergencies Between 8AM – 4PM Only: 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.

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2023

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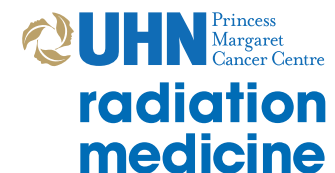
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