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New Skin Cancer Treatment Provides Great Cosmetic Results Without Pain

KETTERING – Now patients at Kettering Medical Center with skin cancer have another option to eliminate those skin lesions with minimal side effects.

Its called High Dose Rate (HDR) therapy with a tool called the Valencia Applicator. The applicators come in two sizes to conform to the different sizes of lesions. The HDR unit robotically feeds a radioactive source to the quarter-sized metal applicator. This delivers a more uniform dose than previous metal applicators and provides outstanding clinical and cosmetic results.

Each of these non-invasive treatments are delivered painlessly and last approximately 10 minutes per site, with treatments given every other week day for 2-4 weeks until the cancer is eliminated. The Valencia Applicators, costing a total of \$25,000, were donated to KMC's radiation oncology department through the Kettering Medical Center Foundation.

“A donor who wishes to remain anonymous provided the funds,” said Dave McElwee of the KMC Foundation. Even though he lost his wife to melanoma, he was very moved by how she was treated by the staff at KMC Radiation Oncology, finding them extremely competent, not to

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mention genuinely warm and caring. They are a great team and were a significant motivator in the donor's desire to give. He wanted to give them another tool in order to further enhance the department's success regarding patients' outcomes."

For small superficial skin carcinomas, high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy offers an effective alternative to other treatment options. Patient set-up is fast and accurate, and the treatment and recovery times are very short.

"We are very happy to offer this more convenient and efficient method of treating skin cancers referred to us for radiation therapy treatments," said Philip Duncan, MD, radiation oncologist. "The ability to further customize the treatment utilizing HDR Brachytherapy with our new skin applicators will continue to result in excellent treatment responses with potentially less side effects to the normal surrounding skin. Certainly, the number of visits to the hospital to complete the course of therapy is significantly reduced, which always benefits the patient."

The radiation oncologist and the dermatologist work collaboratively to decide whether the Valencia HDR treatment or surgery would be the best fit for the patient.

For more information on the treatment of skin cancer with the Valencia Applicator, ask your physician or call **(937) 395-8646**.