

ONCOLOGY BRIEFS



da Vinci Robotic Surgery Creates Welcome Option for Treating Prostate Cancer

Fall 2007

A Quarterly Update For Doctors About Advancements at the Peninsula Cancer Center

The advent of da Vinci Robotic Surgery has taken the whole notion of minimally invasive surgery to another level. This is true to the point where labeling da Vinci simply as minimally invasive vastly understates its capabilities. Rather, say the specialists who use the technology, da Vinci is minimally invasive surgery redefined.

Urologists Mark T. Edney, MD and C. Doyle Maull, MD suggest that da Vinci introduces a new element into the conversation surrounding screening for prostate cancer, PSA tests, and treatment options for the disease.

By now, the facts about prostate cancer are well known: According to the American Cancer Society, it is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in men (aside from skin cancer). Roughly 30,000 men will die from prostate cancer in 2007, second only to lung cancer. The PSA debate continues on at least two fronts: whether the test is accurate and leads to unnecessary anxiety and unneeded tests; and, that no definitive proof exists that PSA screening saves lives in the long term.

With that as background, Dr. Edney points to evidence that is beyond anecdotal. "As the population ages," he says, "the number of prostate cancers is increasing. Yet, the number of deaths from the disease is decreasing significantly. Those facts point to something inherently valuable in the screening process, whether a PSA or digital rectal exam."

The presence of da Vinci at Peninsula Regional Medical Center provides patients and physicians with a welcome additional element to consider when prostate cancer is detected. "Before da Vinci," says Dr. Maull, "discussions about treatment options had to weigh the merits of non-surgical options like radiation or chemotherapy versus the invasiveness of open surgery or less invasive laparoscopy. But both open and laparoscopic procedures carried with them the risk of nerve damage."

The risk of nerve damage and the



Dr. Maull & Edney with the da Vinci Surgical System Robot

likelihood of impotence and incontinence as a result had to be balanced not just against a more conservative strategy of watchful waiting but also the cancer's stage and its relative aggressiveness.

Says, Dr. Edney, "To a certain extent, da Vinci robotic surgery can mitigate the 'either-or' choices among treatment options. The precision, accuracy and dexterity possible with da Vinci dramatically reduces the chance of nerve damage." He cites the 10-times magnification and the 3-D high-definition visual systems as better than the human eye when it comes to seeing into minuscule spaces. "We have seen patients up and walking within a day or two of surgery," he continued.

Although the da Vinci surgical system robot introduces greater latitude when considering surgery, both doctors caution that it doesn't and shouldn't supplant careful weighing of all factors. "It makes it easier to come down on the side of surgery for more advanced cases, more aggressive tumors, or for older patients with less tolerance for side effects," says Dr. Maull. "While all the options must stay on the table, da Vinci is a remarkable advance that will only enhance the gains we've made against prostate cancer."

To speak with one of our da Vinci surgeons, please call 410-643-7006 or 1-866-9-CANCER (922-6237).

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Clinical Trials Update

Physicians and administrators at Peninsula Regional Medical Center made an important decision in 2007 to expand and enhance what was already a robust and active oncology clinical trials program. With the addition of Bennett W. Yu, MD, to the Medical

researchers at the leading universities and research institutions. By having access to leading edge cancer therapies being studied in the trials, both physicians and patients can avail themselves of the most hopeful treatment options, and do so without leaving the area. The enhanced research program encompasses a variety of outreach initiatives aimed at increasing awareness among community groups.

Opportunities for launching new studies are evaluated with a special focus on the disease sites most prevalent in our region. Recently, studies have been launched in the areas of lung, breast, prostate, and colon cancers. A recent increase in the incidence of melanoma noted through the Tumor Registry has prompted a review of available studies for that cancer as well.

New studies this year include those investigating the pathology of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS). Affecting the hemopoietic system, MDS occurs most frequently among an older population of patients. The studies are sponsored by Amgen Pharmaceutical Company and represent an important benchmark in research efforts at Peninsula Regional. Discussions are also underway with other companies as the Cancer Center research team explores additional opportunities that dovetail with the needs of patients and the community.

The Peninsula Cancer Center continues its participation in Cooperative Group studies and is a member of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB); the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP); and the Clinical Trials Support Unit (CTSU). Each of these groups links our region with national research studies investigating the newest and most promising agents being developed for cancer therapy.

Concurrent with Dr. Yu assuming the title of Medical Director and the commitment to a more ambitious research program, the organizational and physical infrastructure of the program has become a microcosm of the large scale revamping and expansion underway throughout the Medical Center. The Peninsula Cancer Center team is drafting a mission statement and Standards of Practice (SOP) guidelines specific to research activities to enhance the structure of the program.

Progress against the disease has come at an accelerated pace of late and it is with the incremental knowledge gained through patience and persistence in clinical trials which makes that progress possible.



Sandra Heineken, RN, BSN, OCN, Program Manager, Clinical Research with participant

Center's medical oncology group — Peninsula Regional Oncology and Hematology — the stage was set for carrying out that mission. Dr. Yu's special interest in oncology research and appointment as Medical Director of Clinical Research in the Peninsula Cancer Center was the catalyst driving the expanded range of trials now under way.

The presence of an active and far-reaching oncology clinical trials program has direct benefits for primary care doctors, their patients, and the community at large. Often the clinical trials represent answers being sought by

Breast Diagnostic Center & Multidisciplinary Breast Case Conference



The staff at the Breast Diagnostic Center at the Peninsula Cancer Center consists of a highly skilled interdisciplinary team of registered mammographers, radiologists and technicians that work together to offer the latest very best breast health care on Delmarva.

Patients receive an array of services from basic screenings and diagnostic tests to breast biopsy procedures in one convenient, private and central location. In addition, the Peninsula Cancer Center has access to the latest breast diagnostic tool – breast MRI scanning with biopsy capability – and is the only cancer facility on Delmarva to offer this technology.

Early detection and prevention is the main goal of the Breast Diagnostic Center. Routine screening mammograms are performed using CAD, a highly sensitive computerized system that “double checks” the mammography images and assists radiologists in detecting hard-to-find abnormalities that might otherwise go undetected. Clinical breast exams, breast self-examination lessons and risk assessment for the breast cancer gene with referrals to genetic counselors are also provided.

The Breast Health Navigator provides patients and their family answers to questions, a professional explanation of results and coordinates an appropriate plan of care.

In the event that breast cancer is diagnosed, all patients are presented at the Peninsula Cancer Center’s weekly multidisciplinary breast conference in a prospective manner to allow input from specialty physicians representing all disciplines involved in diagnosing, staging and treating breast cancer. As a result, a unique treatment plan is formulated for each patient that is designed to result in the best possible outcome based on each particular case. This is the only multidisciplinary breast cancer conference of its kind on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Between the highly skilled and experienced team of experts, the comprehensive screenings and services at the Breast Diagnostic Center, state-of-the-art technology and unique multidisciplinary breast conference, the Peninsula Cancer Center is able to provide state-of-the-art care to patients.

*Dr. Gerard Hogan,
radiologist and
Dr. David Walker,
medical director, Breast
Diagnostic Center, and
surgeon review breast
images on the CAD*

**CLINICAL CASE
CONFERENCE
CME OPPORTUNITIES**

*Oncology Conference**
Weekly, 2nd-5th Fridays/Month at 8 am

*Educational Oncology Conference**
1st Friday/Month at 8 am

*Lung Case Conference**
Weekly, every Tuesday at 8 am

Breast Case Conference**
Weekly, every Thursday at 8 am
Time/Location Change

*Neurosurgical Case Conference***
Monthly, 3rd Monday at 7:30 am

*Prostate Case Conference***
Monthly, 1st Wednesday at 7:30 am

*GYN Conference**
Quarterly, Wednesday, Dates TBD at 8 am

*ENT Conference**
Quarterly, Friday, Dates TBD at 8 am

*Melanoma Conference**
Annual, Friday, Date TBD at 8 am

**Physician's Dining Room*

***Radiation Oncology Conference Room*

**THIRD ANNUAL
LUNG CONFERENCE**

March 14 & 15, 2008
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake
Bay
Cambridge
Call 410-543-7006
to register

NEXT ISSUE

*Prostate Case
Conference &
Seed Implant Program*

*Physical Therapy
Pathway*

*Nutritional
Consultation Program*

*Introduction of New
Physicist*

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The Peninsula Cancer Center welcomes Bennett W. Yu, MD & Justinian Ngaiza, MD

The Peninsula Cancer Center at Peninsula Regional Medical Center is pleased to introduce Bennett W. Yu, MD and Justinian Ngaiza, MD as the newest members of Peninsula Regional Oncology & Hematology.



Bennett W. Yu, MD

Dr. Yu comes to the Peninsula Cancer Center from Wyeth Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he served as the director of Oncology Therapeutics. He has also been a member of the medical staff of the Josephine Ford Cancer Center at Henry Ford Hospital in

Detroit, Michigan, and has served as an assistant professor at both Wayne State University in Detroit and at the Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia.

Dr. Yu is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology and Oncology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In addition to his practice role, Dr. Yu has been appointed the medical director of Oncology Research at Peninsula Regional Medical Center. As required for a Comprehensive Community Cancer Center, Peninsula Regional participates in clinical trials with major National Cancer Institute-funded cancer research groups. With Dr. Yu's expertise, Peninsula Regional is expanding clinical trials currently offered to patients at its Peninsula Cancer Center.



Justinian Ngaiza, MD

Dr. Ngaiza comes to the Peninsula Cancer Center from Hematology Oncology Associates, Ltd. in Alexandria, Virginia, where he has been practicing Oncology and Hematology for the past six years. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine,

Hematology and Oncology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Ngaiza received his medical degree from the Dar-es-salaam University in Tanzania. He completed his internship and residency in

Internal Medicine at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Ngaiza also completed his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology in Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University, where he served as Chief Fellow during his final year.

Drs. Yu and Ngaiza have joined Drs. Joseph Grasso, Panpit Klug, James Martin and Jimmy Taylor in the Peninsula Regional Oncology and Hematology practice, which recently integrated with the Peninsula Cancer Center to create a significant expansion in the scope and availability of oncology and hematology services. The presence of the practice within the Cancer Center promises to enhance the coordination of care and enhance treatment options for patients.



**Crews install pre-cast
concrete panels
as construction of the future
Richard A. Henson
Cancer Institute continues
on schedule**