

BY BETH VINSON

# TAKING AIM

A new technology at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center targets tumors better than ever



The Trilogy® system with BrainLAB stereotactic technology

The Tammy Walker Cancer Center has a new tool in its cancer-fighting arsenal—and gives north central Kansans confidence knowing they have access to the latest technology, right here in Salina.

The new Trilogy® system with BrainLAB stereotactic technology is a more technologically advanced and precise way to verify tumor position and treat it more effectively. It's called stereotactic radiotherapy (SRT), and it's a completely non-invasive surgery and treatment option.

"I am ecstatic about having the Trilogy in Salina because it encompasses the capabilities of the CyberKnife® and the Gamma Knife® with the flexibility that is necessary for cancer patients who have areas at risk that cannot be addressed by the other conventional machines," says Claudia Perez-Tamayo, M.D., radiation oncologist at the Tammy Walker Cancer Center.

## CLEAR ADVANTAGES

Trilogy guides the delivery of very precise forms and amounts of radiation therapy. It brings precision targeting to extremely small spaces that were difficult to treat before this technology was available. Knowing exactly where the tumor is located (which can shift between treatments) makes it less difficult to target.

Because Trilogy targets only the tumor, less of the surrounding normal tissue is irradiated, making it possible to deliver higher concentrations of radiation directly and more precisely to the tumor.

"With stereotactic brain and body radiosurgery, we can treat patients with early and more advanced cancer, allowing for a quicker recovery, low morbidity and cure," Perez-Tamayo says.

Tammy Walker Cancer Center's Trilogy also features state-of-the-art motion management

capability, which compensates for the natural breathing motion of the patient, increasing treatment accuracy and enhancing patient comfort while reducing stress.

## HOW IT WORKS

When patients are positioned on a treatment table, an X-ray system mounted on a robotic arm is rotated around the body to gather images that pinpoint a tumor's exact location. These images are then compared with existing images in order to determine if the tumor has moved since the last treatment. Because tissues and organs can settle around bones differently each time a patient lies down on a treatment table, tumors can end up in different positions from one treatment session to another. In addition, tumors can move several centimeters due to a patient's normal respiratory cycle.

In some cases, only one treatment session is needed. Other cases may require a few treatment sessions. Although the actual delivery of the radiation beam is brief, preparation time may take a few hours. Most patients go home immediately after the procedure.

"By bringing the Trilogy to Salina, we have brought one of the most powerful tools in the world, allowing the local and regional areas of central Kansas accessibility to the most comprehensive radiotherapeutic cancer treatments," Perez-Tamayo says.

This addition to the Salina Regional Health Center oncology service line completes a triad of exceptional oncologic care. The da Vinci® Surgical System, the Midwest Cancer Alliance for medical oncology advancement and, now, the Trilogy, allow the scope of treatments in Salina to reach that of the nation's top cancer centers. ☑

## GOOD NEWS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

The new Trilogy® system with BrainLAB stereotactic technology offers myriad benefits to patients, including:

**Better treatment, fewer side effects.** Through more precise targeting of the beam, dosage levels can be increased and target volumes (the three-dimensional areas that receive treatment) can be reduced. That means tumors get a higher dose of radiation and healthy surrounding tissues get very little. Higher doses enhance treatment effectiveness and better targeting reduces the possible side effect of radiotherapy.

**Enhanced comfort, reduced stress.** State-of-the-art motion management techniques allow patients to breathe naturally during treatment sessions, increasing treatment accuracy, reducing stress and enhancing patient comfort.

## WHAT CAN TRILOGY DO FOR YOU?

For more information, call the Tammy Walker Cancer Center at Salina Regional Health Center at **785-452-4850**.

