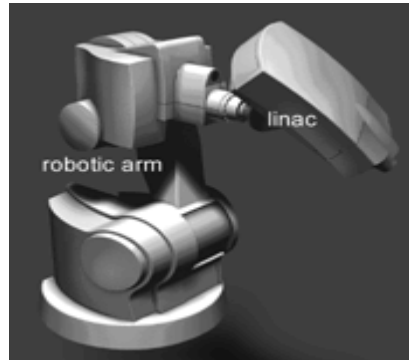


## Questions and Answers Regarding the Cyberknife

### 1. What is the Cyberknife?

The Cyberknife is a treatment device that uses high energy radiation to treat both malignant and non-malignant tumors. It consists of a small linear accelerator mounted on a robotic arm.



**Cyberknife installed  
at United Health Services**



**Varian IX installed  
at Lourdes**

### 2. How does the Cyberknife differ from the equipment at Lourdes?

The Cyberknife is designed specifically to perform stereotactic radiosurgery. It uses a single energy (6MV) linear accelerator. The equipment at Lourdes is multi-energy, which allows for a broader range of applications.

The Cyberknife treats patients using one to five high dose treatments, each treatment lasting one to two hours. Radiosurgery treatments on Lourdes Varian machine will last 30 to 40 minutes.

## Questions and Answers Regarding the Cyberknife

### 3. How is Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) used?

The current research shows that Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) has been proven very useful for both primary and metastatic intracranial lesions along with certain benign cranial lesions. There has been some work done indicating that SRS may be effective for certain spinal lesions. The current data does not support the use of SRS in other areas of the body.

### 4. Will the Cyberknife replace other means of treatment?

The Cyberknife will not replace surgery, chemotherapy or traditional external beam radiation therapy in most patients.

### 5. Is the Cyberknife effective for tumors outside the head and spine?

There is no current research showing the effectiveness of SRS outside of the head and spine.

### 6. Is the Cyberknife better than other forms of radiation therapy?

There is no current literature showing an advantage of the Cyberknife over the Gammaknife or traditional linear accelerator based SRS.

### 7. What does the Cyberknife's FDA approval mean?

The Cyberknife is unique in its design. It is because of this unusual design that that FDA approval was required. Linear accelerator based SRS has been approved for many years.

### 8. Does the Cyberknife give UHS an advantage over Lourdes' program?

Lourdes program possesses all the technical capability found in many university settings. The items listed below point out many of the strengths of Lourdes that make the strongest in the area.

75% of patients including all IMRT patients require complex simulation requiring a CT scanner. Lourdes was the first in our community to offer a dedicated CT scanner for treatment simulation.

Lourdes provides the only local high and low dose radioactive implant program. This is a very active program performing over 550 implants procedures over the last four years.

Lourdes multidisciplinary approach facilitates the communication between different members of the cancer team. The weekly multidisciplinary conference provides important information to the various cancer care team members.

As a component of our American College of Surgeons accreditation Lourdes accrues over 20 patients annually into collaborative trials through an affiliation

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with the University of Rochester. This affiliation provides access into trials conducted at the largest tertiary cancer centers throughout the United States.

The cancer program is part of Lourdes strategic plan for provision of radiotherapy services at Lourdes. This represents a continued systematic approach in the development of Lourdes Center of Excellence.

In 2003, according to data from HANYS, Lourdes saw 65% of the cancer visits in the service area. Additionally, market research shows that 80% of individuals in the primary service area identify Lourdes as being a center of excellence in cancer care.