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Local Facility Named “Center of Excellence” for Advanced Breast Cancer Treatment

Roseburg, September 1, 2015 -- The Community Cancer Center (CCC) was recently named a “Center of Excellence” in accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) for its use of the SAVI[®] applicator, an advanced therapy for breast cancer as part of breast conservation therapy. The SAVI applicator can provide important advantages for women with early-stage breast cancer.

Designation as a Center of Excellence recognizes the Community Cancer Center’s dedication to education, training and experience in APBI. To qualify, the CCC’s physicians, medical physicists and clinical staff were required to complete a comprehensive training and education program in order to demonstrate proficiency in delivering radiation therapy with SAVI. As a Center of Excellence, the CCC has also expressed a commitment to patient education, advocacy and awareness of advanced breast cancer treatments.

The CCC’s commitment to offer the SAVI applicator may extend the benefits of breast conservation therapy to a larger group of women.

Breast-conservation therapy includes lumpectomy– the surgical removal of the cancerous tissue within the breast plus tissue immediately around the tumor – followed by radiation. This approach is an alternative to mastectomy, which removes the entire breast and is often followed by breast reconstruction.

The new SAVI applicator delivers a form of radiation therapy known as breast brachytherapy. This approach, which targets the tumor site from inside the breast, is becoming a more widely used alternative to traditional radiation.

Breast brachytherapy typically involves two treatments per day for only 5 days. This shorter timeframe makes brachytherapy far more convenient than traditional, external-beam radiation. The latter is delivered five times a week and takes six or seven weeks.

In addition to shortening the therapy time, breast brachytherapy with SAVI minimizes radiation exposure of healthy tissue, which reduces damage to critical structures such as the skin, heart, lungs and ribs.

The multi-catheter SAVI applicator treats the tissue surrounding the lumpectomy cavity from the inside out. The device is inserted into the lumpectomy cavity through a small incision. The physician then gently expands the bundle of catheters so the radiation dose will conform to the size and shape of the area to be treated.

“SAVI makes it possible for us to provide more women with the advantages of breast brachytherapy,” said Randy Moore, D.O., Medical Director at the Community Cancer Center

Radiation treatment after a lumpectomy has traditionally involved irradiation of the entire breast with an external beam. Besides the inconvenience of the six-week-long regimen, many women must travel some distance to receive external-beam radiation. That can put additional stress on their families, jobs, and financial resources.

“SAVI allowed me to have my treatments over five days rather than several weeks,” said Karen McCullough. “Because of this, my husband and I are able to take our yearly summer vacation without having to worry about missing my radiation treatments.”

The SAVI technology was developed by Cianna Medical, Inc., (Aliso Viejo, Calif.) a women's health company dedicated to the early treatment of breast cancer.

About the Community Cancer Center is a non-profit, 501c3, incorporated in 1979. The corporation is named Community Cancer Foundation doing business as the Community Cancer Center (CCC). The foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Our mission is to assist, encourage, promote and advance the best care, treatments and rehabilitation of persons afflicted with cancer or related medical conditions.