The Precision of Protons.
The Power of Caring.

A guide to proton therapy for patients with cancer.
Welcome. An introduction to the benefits of proton therapy.

When you or a family member is diagnosed with cancer, you’ll probably have a lot of questions and difficult decisions to make about your treatment.

But there is good news. There have been many medical and technological advances and improvements, which means more and better treatment options for you.

One of these advances is proton therapy. It’s a very precise and effective kind of radiation treatment that has fewer side effects and treats many of the same tumors as standard x-ray radiation. It causes less damage to healthy tissue and can be an effective option for many patients whose doctors have recommended radiation treatment.

This brochure will walk you through the benefits of proton therapy and help you make important decisions about your treatment options.

Each person’s experience is unique. So as you begin your own fight against cancer, we hope you find this brochure helpful and encouraging.

X-ray vs. proton therapy.
X-rays and protons can be equally effective at destroying cancer cells, but there are some important benefits of proton therapy. Unlike x-rays, protons (heavily, positively charged atomic particles) can be precisely controlled so that most of their radiation ends up directly in the tumor.

This is an especially important benefit when the tumor is located near critical organs or structures such as the brain, heart or spinal cord. With standard x-ray radiation, more energy is released as x-rays travel through the patient's body, both before and after they reach the tumor site, damaging healthy tissue along the path.

With proton therapy there is also a lower occurrence of secondary tumors which may appear many years after receiving radiation treatment.

Effective therapy. Less damage.
As protons enter the body, they do release some energy, but the amount is less than x-ray radiation. The proton radiation dose is designed to peak at the back of the tumor so that when it leaves the tumor the dose falls almost to zero. This means there is less damage to healthy tissue and fewer side effects and complications. Because it is so precise, proton therapy provides effective therapy with reduced side effects.

Particularly beneficial for children.
Proton therapy can be especially beneficial for children, who can experience more serious short- and long-term side effects from x-ray radiation than adults. Since their bodies are still growing, children are more sensitive to healthy tissue damage caused by x-rays. Clinical studies suggest that proton therapy reduces the risk of growth and developmental problems, as well as secondary tumors.

Proton therapy—advanced technology with many advantages.
Standard x-ray radiation and proton therapy treat many of the same tumors and both are equally effective at destroying cancer cells. But there are important differences between the two therapies. The most significant one is that proton therapy results in less damage to healthy tissue so patients experience fewer side effects.

We invite you to call our center at 866-204-9863 or visit www.procure.com/ok to learn more about the benefits of proton therapy.
Proton therapy is effective in treating certain types of cancers as well as some non-cancerous tumors and arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), which are tangles of blood vessels that sometimes occur in the brain or spinal cord. The tumors listed below are the ones that often benefit from proton therapy. Additional tumors may also be treated with proton therapy. Only a doctor can help you determine the best treatment approach for you.

- Brain tumors
- Head and neck tumors
- Basal cell tumors
- Prostate cancer
- Pediatric tumors
- Tumors near the spine
- Melanoma of the eye
- Lung tumors

### Who benefits most from proton therapy?

Proton therapy is recommended for many patients, including children who usually have more serious short- and long-term side effects from x-ray radiation than adults. In addition, patients whose tumors are near critical organs or structures (such as the brain, heart, or spinal cord), whose cancers have recurred and who cannot tolerate any more x-ray radiation can also benefit.

In addition, since proton therapy causes fewer side effects than x-ray radiation, it can often be used in combination with chemotherapy, as a follow-up treatment to surgery and in combination with standard x-ray radiation. You should discuss combination therapy with a radiation and medical oncologist to decide the best treatment option.

### Comparison of proton therapy and X-rays/IMRT in brain tumor treatment

Compared to x-ray radiation therapy, proton therapy results in less radiation to normal brain tissue, eyes and the optic nerve, so patients experience fewer side effects.

#### Brain tumor treatment with protons

Less healthy tissue around the tumor receives radiation. Grey/white area indicates no radiation exposure.

#### Brain tumor treatment with X-rays/IMRT

More healthy tissue around the tumor receives radiation. Colored area indicates radiation exposure.

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Proton therapy is given in proton centers featuring specialized, state-of-the-art medical equipment. The treatment and care is provided by doctors, medical physicists, nurses and radiation therapists who are specially trained experts. The doctor who prescribes proton therapy and manages your medical care is a radiation oncologist.

You will not feel any pain or discomfort during your treatment sessions. That's because proton therapy is a non-invasive and painless treatment that can be performed in a proton therapy center without an overnight stay in the hospital. The time spent actually delivering the protons to the tumor is about one minute, but a treatment session can range from 15 to 30 minutes due to time spent making sure you're in just the right position for this precise treatment. After your treatment session, you can leave and go on with your normal, daily routine.

Treatments are generally given five days a week for four to eight weeks, depending on the tumor and its location.

### Minimal side effects.

As with all radiation therapy, there is the potential for side effects. However, most people report no side effects with proton therapy at all. If they do occur, side effects are generally minor and vary depending on the tumor location, your general health, other medical conditions, age and medical history. Some people experience tiredness, skin irritation or slight hair loss. Your doctor will talk with you about the specific side effects you may experience based on your tumor's location and your treatment plan.
Explore your treatment options. Talk to your doctor.

It is important to consider all your options before you decide on a treatment. Since many of the tumors that can be treated with proton therapy also can be treated with x-ray radiation, these questions will help you discuss options with your doctor.

Doctor discussion guide.

Please write down a description of my cancer or my type of tumor—what it's called, where it's located, its stage and other facts that may be important in deciding treatment options.

What are my treatment choices?

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What do you recommend and why?

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Is proton therapy an option for me? What are the pros and cons?

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How does proton therapy compare with my other options?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How long would my treatment last—at each appointment and the entire course?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

What is the treatment like? Is it safe?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Will the treatment affect my daily routine? (e.g. going to work, exercising)

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

What short-term and long-term side effects or complications can I expect with each treatment option?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How will we know if it worked?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

If my cancer came back some day, could I have treatments again?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Where do I need to go for therapy?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

How much will it cost? How much will my insurance/Medicare/Medicaid pay?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Once we have decided a course of treatment, what are the next steps?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Q: Is proton therapy experimental?
No, proton therapy is not experimental. Proton therapy was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat patients in 1988. To date, more than 60,000 people worldwide have received proton therapy at centers in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Q: What kinds of studies have been done to prove the effectiveness of proton therapy?
The effectiveness of proton therapy has been studied by researchers around the world. More and more studies show excellent results treating tumors with protons compared with alternative treatments. The amount of research being conducted on proton therapy is rapidly increasing as more centers open and more patient experiences become available.

Q: Will my insurance cover the cost of proton therapy?
In most cases, yes. Proton therapy is covered by many private insurance carriers, Medicare and many state Medicaid programs. Specific levels of reimbursement depend on the state and site of service and health insurer.

Q: How can I find out if proton therapy is an option for me?
You or your doctor can contact the ProCure Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City to determine if it’s right for you.

Only a specialist in radiation therapy—a radiation oncologist—can decide if proton therapy could be the best option for you. Our medical team will assist you in collecting the information needed for a proton therapy evaluation at the Center, including:

• Your cancer diagnosis
• Imaging records
• Family medical history
• A referral for radiation therapy

To find out more, please visit us at www.procure.com/ok or contact our ProCure Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City at 866-204-9863.

Answers to your questions.

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Please call 866-204-9863 or visit www.procure.com/ok for more information.
Welcome to the ProCure Proton Therapy Center, Oklahoma City. Our center is the sixth proton therapy center to open in the United States and offers specialized treatment for many kinds of tumors. We combine innovative technologies designed for precision proton therapy with a passion for creating a healing environment. Our experienced doctors and highly skilled medical professionals are dedicated to providing exceptional care for you and your family—every step of the way.

To find out more, please call our center at 866-204-9863 or visit us at www.procure.com/ok.
We care for and about you.

We understand how important it is to have a professional—and personal—relationship with us as you go through treatment. Our individual Care Teams, including a radiation oncologist, nurse and radiation therapists are dedicated to managing your therapy. The Care Team nurse will help coordinate any additional medical services you may need and make sure your personal physician is updated regularly about your progress. Your Care Team will also be there to support and guide you every step of the way.

We take care of the day-to-day needs for you and your family.

We know how stressful it can be to manage life while undergoing treatment. Our Patient Services Team has extensive knowledge on local restaurants, recreational activities and spiritual places to help make Oklahoma City feel like home for you and your family. Our team also hosts activities like the weekly patient luncheon at the center for patients and their family to share stories with and provide support for each other. If you are traveling from out of town, our team will help you arrange lodging and transportation during your treatment.

We follow through. And follow up.

Our Intake Nurse will coordinate medical record exchanges and collect information needed to evaluate your individual treatment needs. Your Care Team nurse will schedule consultations, appointments and follow-up care.

Our financial counselors help too.

Our experienced counselors provide personalized help in navigating insurance coverage and payment.

We also offer:

• Support groups
• A knowledge center and resource library
• Convenient and flexible treatment scheduling
• Help with meal planning
• A play room for children and families

Learn more about your cancer and proton therapy.

GENERAL RESOURCES
OncoLink: www.oncolink.com
National Cancer Institute: www.cancer.gov

PATIENT SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY GROUPS
Brotherhood of the Blue Bag: www.brotherhoodofthebluebag.com
ProCure Cancer Foundation: www.procurecancerfoundation.org
National Association For Proton Therapy: www.proton-therapy.org
Proton Bob (Brotherhood of the Balloon): www.protonbob.com
Pediatric Proton Foundation: www.pediatricprotonfoundation.org

RADIATION ONCOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS
American Society for Radiation Oncology: www.astro.org
Particle Therapy Co-Operative Group: http://ptcog.web.psi.ch
Paediatric Radiation Oncology Society: www.ntpons.org

NATIONAL CANCER ORGANIZATIONS
American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org
American Brain Tumor Association: www.abta.org
Prostate Cancer Foundation: www.prostatecancerfoundation.org
American Breast Cancer Foundation: www.abcf.org

OKLAHOMA CITY CANCER ORGANIZATIONS
Oklahoma Brain Tumor Foundation: www.okbtf.org
Oklahoma Children’s Cancer Association: www.helpkidsfightcancer.org

Directions.

The ProCure Proton Therapy Center is located in far northwest Oklahoma City on the northwest corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Memorial Road.

Please call 866-204-9863 or visit www.procure.com/ok for more information.

From Will Rogers World Airport:
Go north on Marland (2 miles), exit right on Airport Road I-44 Downtown. Get in the left lane; in ½ mile exit left onto North I-44, Stay in left lanes and merge to Lake Hefner Parkway/OK Hwy 74 (approx. 7 miles). Exit on West John Kilpatrick Tumpke/Memorial Road (7 miles). Turn left (west), go 1 ½ miles to MacArthur Blvd.

From I-40 West:
Coming past Yukon, OK, exit and go north on the John Kilpatrick Tumpke. Exit on MacArthur Blvd. (approximately 12 miles).

From I-35 South:

From I-44 Tulsa:
Continue on Tumpke. Cross over I-35 and this turns into John Kilpatrick Tumpke. Go 10 miles, exit MacArthur Blvd.

From I-40 East:
Leaders in radiation oncology.

The radiation oncologists of Radiation Medicine Associates (RMA) provide clinical care to patients at the Center. They will coordinate with your personal doctor and medical team, from the time of your evaluation at the Center through your treatment and follow-up care. RMA is the first physician group in Oklahoma to be able to treat patients with proton therapy.

RMA is the state’s leading radiation oncology practice. Together, the team of radiation oncologists has more than 70 years of experience in the field and is known for clinical excellence and for pioneering new technologies and new approaches to patient care.

RMA was among the first radiation oncology practices in the state to offer advanced radiation treatments including intensity modulated radiation therapy, Gamma Knife, brachytherapy and Tomo Therapy. With specializations in brain, head and neck, prostate, breast, lung, genitourinary, gastrointestinal and pediatric cancers, RMA radiation oncologists have the expertise to provide the highest level of medical care to patients and are affiliated with a number of hospitals in Oklahoma.

About ProCure Proton Therapy Center

5901 W. Memorial Road
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142

The ProCure Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City is the first in ProCure’s network of proton therapy centers to provide this advanced radiation therapy to patients with cancer. The Center is the sixth center in the Nation to treat a broad range of tumor sites.

Clinical care is led by the state’s leading radiation oncology practice, Radiation Medicine Associates (RMA), and additional medical services are available at the INTEGRIS Cancer Institute of Oklahoma (ICI), located adjacent to the Center.

To find out more, please call our center at 866-204-9863 or visit us at www.procure.com/ok
PROCUREMENT PROTON THERAPY CENTER, OKLAHOMA
Center Location
5901 W. Memorial Road
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To learn more about the advantages of proton therapy, please call 866-204-9863 or visit www.procure.com/ok.
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Please call 866-204-9863 or visit www.procure.com/ok for more information
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**MEDICAL DEGREE**  
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