Proton therapy for children with cancer
Talk to your child’s doctor about how proton therapy can help

Precision therapy with fewer side effects
Proton therapy is an advanced form of radiation cancer treatment that precisely targets tumors. Because this precision causes less damage to healthy tissue, proton therapy patients experience fewer side effects than with standard X-ray radiation. Proton therapy is effective in treating a broad range of tumors including prostate, brain, head and neck, central nervous system, lung, sarcomas, gastrointestinal and many pediatric cancers.

Particularly effective and beneficial for children
Since children’s bodies are still growing, children are more sensitive to damage to healthy tissue caused by radiation. They can experience more serious short-term and long-term side effects from X-ray radiation than adults. Studies that have been done on the use of protons for pediatric tumors show excellent results in controlling tumors, reducing damage to healthy tissue, and lowering the risk of the tumor returning later in life.1,2,3

3  Metz J. Reduced normal tissue toxicity with proton therapy. Oncolink 6.29.2006.

Research has shown that proton therapy can significantly reduce the risk of developmental and growth delays and abnormalities, reductions in IQ, and other complications often associated with standard X-ray radiation.

With proton therapy, the healthy tissue around the tumor and the critical organs is spared any additional radiation. Some of the child's normal brain tissue receives 50% less radiation than with X-rays/IMRT.

Grey/white area indicates no radiation exposure.

With X-rays/IMRT treatments, more healthy tissue around the tumor receives radiation.

Colored area indicates radiation exposure.

Brain tumor treatment with protons and X-ray/IMRT

Call 630-393-7030 or visit www.procure.com/il for more information.

Source of treatment plans: ProCure Training and Development Center.
**Tumors most appropriate for proton therapy include:**

- Brain tumors such as medulloblastoma, craniopharyngioma, gliomas and ependymomas
- Connective and other soft tissue tumors (rhabdomyosarcoma)
- Eye tumors (i.e. retinoblastoma)
- Thyroid gland tumors
- Other endocrine glands and related structures
- Tumors on the spine or spinal cord

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**Be prepared when talking to your doctor about your child’s treatment options, including proton therapy**

The first step in your child’s treatment plan is to discuss your options, including proton therapy, with your doctor. Your doctor may not be as familiar with proton therapy as other treatment options, so bring this sheet with you.

**Below are a few questions to help discuss your child’s treatment options with your doctor:**

- Is proton therapy an option for my child? What are the pros and cons?

- How does proton therapy compare with my child’s other options?

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

- How long would my child’s treatment last—at each appointment and the entire course?

- Where do I take my child to receive proton therapy?

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

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**Frequently asked questions:**

- **Can proton therapy be used in conjunction with other forms of cancer treatment?**
  Yes. Depending on the diagnosis, proton therapy may be used in combination with conventional radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy and/or as a follow-up to surgery.

- **Is proton therapy covered by most insurance plans?**
  Proton therapy is covered by most insurance providers nationwide and the U.S. Medicare program. The financial counselors at ProCure will work with you and your insurance provider to get you all the coverage information you may need.

- **What will my child feel like during the course of proton therapy?**
  There is no discomfort or sensation during the actual radiation treatment. Most pediatric patients have few, or very mild, side effects from proton therapy. If your child experiences any side effects, they can be managed with medications, if necessary.

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Proton therapy is a precise, effective option with fewer side effects than traditional radiation therapy

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