

Covenant Connections

Covenant Health News and Updates

Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center Brings Newest Radiosurgery Therapy to Tennessee

Latest Gamma Knife® therapy is first in Tennessee; enhances treatment of brain tumors and neurological disorders

Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, in collaboration with Thompson Cancer Survival Center, is proud to announce the installation of the latest stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) platform, the Leksell Gamma Knife® Icon™.

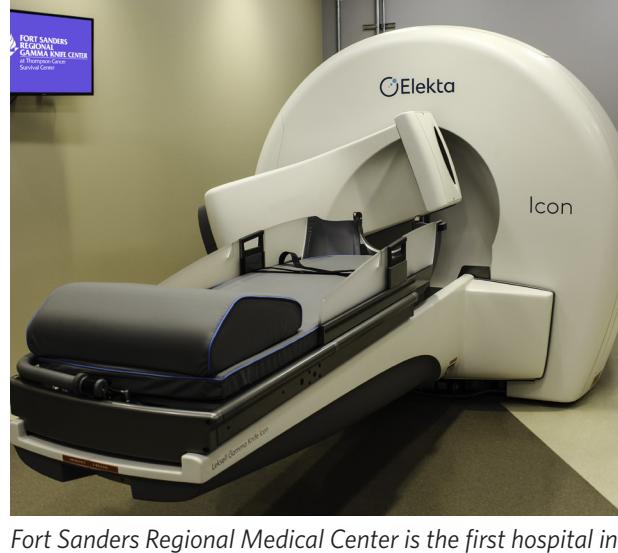
The Leksell Gamma Knife Icon is the sixth generation of Elekta's Gamma Knife radiosurgery technique and gives the Fort Sanders Regional Gamma Knife Center at Thompson Cancer Survival Center expanded options for treating benign and malignant brain tumors and other neurological disorders.

"Since 2011 Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center has treated more than 1,400 patients with Gamma Knife," said Keith Altshuler,

president and chief administrative officer of Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. "Ten years later, we are updating that technology with a system that will expand Gamma Knife to more patients, with greater efficacy and fewer side effects."

Gamma Knife is used in outpatient procedures that treat a multitude of neurological disorders including brain tumors, pituitary tumors, trigeminal neuralgia, arteriovenous malformation (AVM), and other benign and malignant tumors.

Often referred to as "surgery without a knife," Gamma Knife precisely delivers radiation to the targeted affected area, preserving healthy brain tissue and eliminating some of the risks of a traditional craniotomy, such



Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center is the first hospital in Tennessee and one of just 10 providers in the southeastern United States to offer Gamma Knife Icon for patients.

as bleeding or brain damage. Many cancer patients with brain metastases in critical locations that cannot be safely reached surgically

have benefited from Gamma Knife radiosurgery.

"Extensive advances in Gamma Knife technology now allow for more patients

to be treated than even five to 10 years ago," said David Hauge, MD, neurosurgeon and medical director of the Fort Sanders Regional Gamma Knife Center. "A team of neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and specially trained nurses work together to provide safe, efficient and seamless radiosurgical treatment in an outpatient setting. There's no need for anesthesia, and this treatment doesn't come with the risks of open brain surgery.

Many of our cancer patients receiving Gamma Knife treatment are able to continue to work and live independently, and most return to normal activities the day after the procedure."

The Icon's integrated CT scanner provides the most

accurate motion tracking during treatment as well as integrated imaging, ensuring radiation is delivered only to the affected area. While the previous system treated the patient in a single session, the new technology accommodates multiple sessions, enabling treatment of larger tumor volumes, areas close to critical brain structures and new or recurring brain metastases.

One of only two Gamma Knife facilities in the state, Fort Sanders Regional is the first hospital in Tennessee and one of just 10 providers in the southeastern United States to offer Gamma Knife Icon for patients. According to the Leksell Gamma Knife Society, more than 80,000 patients undergo Gamma Knife surgery each year.

Facts About Gamma Knife

In the 11 years since Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center began offering Gamma Knife® services, we have provided treatment to more than 1,400 patients for brain tumors and other neurological disorders.

Gamma Knife is a stereotactic radiosurgical device that's highly regarded in the medical community for its ability to treat malignant and benign tumors of the brain. Here's a closer look at this life-saving technology:

It's not really a knife.

There's no cutting involved with Gamma Knife, there's no need for anesthesia and it is typically performed as an outpatient procedure. Gamma Knife works by targeting radiation energy straight through the skull and into brain tumors.

It's more accurate.

During treatment, up to 192 low-intensity radiation beams are precisely delivered to their

intended target, so the radiation can destroy a tumor without damaging the surrounding healthy tissue. Patients can receive treatment and go home immediately, resuming most normal activities right away.

It's not just for brain tumors.

Because of the accuracy of the radiation, Gamma Knife can be used to target troubled areas besides tumors of the brain. Gamma Knife has been successfully used for other brain disorders, non-cancerous tumors of the pituitary gland, tumors of the ear or eye nerves, and malformations of the blood vessels in the brain.

It can multitask.

Some would say this is the greatest benefit to using the Gamma Knife, with its ability to treat as many as 15 to 20 tumors at a time in a single or multiple sessions.

The Leksell Gamma Knife® Icon™, Fort Sanders

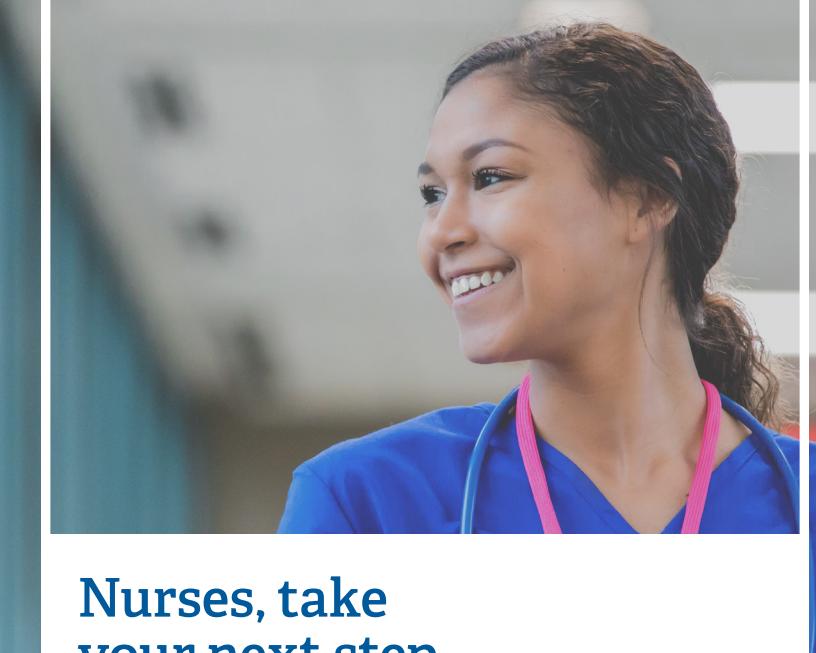
Regional's new Gamma Knife technology, is designed to allow treatment of multiple metastatic brain tumors developed from primary cancers outside the brain such as lung, breast, ovarian, colorectal, kidney and melanoma.

It's a safer option.

The Gamma Knife is much safer than other radiosurgical tools for brain tumors because it doesn't expose the rest of the brain or body to radiation. The increased accuracy can also prevent bleeding and brain damage of healthy tissue that can happen in a traditional brain surgery.

The minimally invasive Gamma Knife provides effective treatment in a shorter amount of time.

For more information about the Fort Sanders Gamma Knife Center, call 865-331-4000 or visit FSRegional.com/Gamma-Knife-Center.



Nurses, take your next step with us.

If you're looking for more than a job, we're looking for more than an employee. We aren't just a group of hospitals across 23 counties in East Tennessee, we are a healthcare delivery system that works together.



FSRegional.com



Regional Excellence.

Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center is the referral hospital where other facilities send their most complex patients.

- Certified stroke center
- Award-winning heart care
- Neuro center of excellence
- Robotic-assisted surgery



FSRegional.com