

About Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Midwestern Regional Medical Center in Zion, Illinois

Overview

At Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) at Midwestern Regional Medical Center (Midwestern), there are approximately (800) employees and (150) physicians on the medical staff. Cancer Treatment Centers of America offers some of the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technology in cancer treatment, including Temporary High Dose Rate Brachytherapy, Mammosite, IMRT, Radiosurgery and Tomotherapy®

Midwestern has a capacity of (36) inpatient rooms, (4) ICU rooms, (3) surgical suites, state-of-the-art radiation therapy and infusion centers, rehabilitation therapy and (40) outpatient guest accommodations.

We specialize in advanced and complex cancer care, treating all major adult forms of the disease. Midwestern treats approximately (2,700) outpatients and (600) inpatients each month.

CTCA at Midwestern Regional Medical Center Doctors and Staff

Dr. Edgar Staren, MD; PhD; MBA
Chief Medical Officer, Surgical Oncology

Dr. Sybilann Williams, MD
Medical Director, Gynecologic Oncology

Dr. Bernard V. Eden, MD
Director of Radiation Oncology

Dr. Robert Levin, MD
Chief of Medical Oncology

Dr. Sung K. Chang, MD
Radiation Oncology

Dr. Ranulfo Sanchez, MD
Surgical Oncology

Dr. Joel Lee Granick, MD
Medical Oncology, Hematologist

Dr. Alfonso Meillijor, MD
Surgical Oncology

Dr. Rakhshanda Neelem, MD
Medical Oncology, Hematologist

Dr. Steve Redei, MD
Director of Stem Cell Transplant and Cell Therapy Program,
Hematologist

Dr. Dennis Citrin, MD, PhD
Medical Oncology

Dr. Stephen Ray, MD, DABMA
Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery, Acupuncture

Dr. Glynis Vashi, MD
New Patient Evaluation, Internist

Dr. Pankaj Vashi, MD
National Clinical Director, G/I Nutrition and Metabolic Support

Carolyn Lammersfeld, MS, RD, LDN, CNDS
National Director of Nutrition

Katherine Puckett, MS, MSW, LCSW
National Director of Mind/Body Medicine

Shauna Birdsall, ND
Director of Naturopathic Medicine

Stanislav Maravilla, RPT
Director of Rehabilitation Services

Rev. Percy McCray, Jr.
Director of Pastoral Care and Social Services

Specialties at Midwestern Regional Medical Center

Gynecologic Oncology

The National Cancer Institute Standards of Care recommend that a Gynecologic Oncologist be involved in the care of patients with gynecologic malignancies. In addition to a better prognosis overall, Gynecologic Oncologists bring continuity of care since they have the skill and expertise to treat patients from start to finish. Furthermore, a Gynecologic Oncologist who is a woman, such as Dr. Sybilann Williams MD, at CTCA at Midwestern Regional Medical Center, provides an understanding ear and special compassion as a cancer survivor herself, making it easier for patients to express all treatment related concerns.

Hematological/Bone Marrow Transplant Center

Hematological Oncology at CTCA at Midwestern Regional Medical Center, utilizes specialized chemotherapies and radiotherapies, alone, or in concert with pioneering immunotherapies, to deliver advanced cancer treatment to patients fighting hematological cancers. The Midwestern Hematological Oncology Department delivers a comprehensive array of cutting-edge immunotherapy treatment options for patients including: Allogenic and Autologous Bone Marrow Transplants (BMT) and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplants (PBSCT). CTCA partner and world-renowned hematological oncologist, Dr. Shimon Slavin, MD is spearheading the expansion into immunotherapy. Together, Dr. Slavin and the Midwestern Hematologic Oncology Department are working to share common protocols that are changing the face of cancer treatment for Hematological cancer patients.

Complementary Medicine

Nutrition

By complementing conventional treatments with the fortifying effects of nutritional support, the nutritional team works to ensure all patients eat a well-balanced diet, rich in phytochemicals and cancer fighting vitamins and minerals.

The CTCA whole-person approach to cancer treatment is reinforced with a two-pronged approach to nutrition. A collaborative process brings together the patient, the caregiver, the nutritionist, and the oncologist. In addition, an educational focus informs patients of the relationship between a healthy diet and wellness. Providing patients with dietary options and assisting patients in the achievement of their goals, is the objective of the nutrition team.

Naturopathy

Naturopathic medicine is a distinct system of health care and prevention using the least invasive, most physiologically supportive and natural methods possible. The goals of naturopathic treatment are to:

- Support normal metabolism during cancer treatment
- Increase effectiveness of conventional cancer therapy
- Decrease side effects of treatment
- Support immune function during treatment
- Provide strategies for long term cancer prevention and wellness

Mind-Body Medicine

Research has proven a direct connection between the mind and its effects on the body. The Mind-Body Team provides patients with emotional support and helps them take better care of themselves, during and after cancer treatment.

This support can help people cope with the stresses and physical responses to illness and treatment. The Mind-Body Medicine department is available to meet and help patients and caregivers address issues that are contributing to the already demanding difficulties of a cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Mind-Body Medicine also teaches classes on relaxation and stress management techniques. These helpful tools and techniques help people with cancer deal with the physical and emotional issues that may arise at this time.

Conventional Radiation, Medical Oncology and Surgery Therapies

MammoSite®

MammoSite® Radiation Therapy System (RTS), FDA-approved in May 2002, is a simpler, less invasive method of delivering internal beam, breast brachytherapy. Breast Brachytherapy is a site-specific radiation treatment completed in four to five days, as compared to seven weeks for traditional, external beam radiation therapy. The new device delivers radiation directly to the area where a breast tumor has been surgically removed (via lumpectomy), which is the site where tumors are most likely to recur. With its site-specific approach, MammoSite® avoids external beam therapy side effects, such as irradiation of healthy tissue.

TomoTherapy®

TomoTherapy® Highly Integrated Adaptive Radiotherapy (HI-ART) is an external beam radiation therapy option available at Cancer Treatment Centers of America. TomoTherapy combines an advanced form of Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), the accuracy of CT scanning technology, and advanced tools for planning and delivering radiation therapy in one machine.

With TomoTherapy® HI-ART, we can:

- Sculpt small, powerful and precise radiation beams to hit hard-to-reach tumors.
- Target tumors using built-in CT scanning to confirm the shape and position of the tumor more accurately and just seconds before your treatment begins.
- Reduce radiation exposure to healthy surrounding tissue, often dramatically.

If you have reached your maximum tolerance/dose of traditional radiation, or if your tumor is in a hard-to-reach area, TomoTherapy® HI-ART may introduce new options for advanced radiation therapy treatments for you.

TheraSphere®

Cancer Treatment Centers of America is among the few hospitals in the United States to offer TheraSphere® an innovative, new therapy that delivers radiation directly to tumors in the liver, using tiny glass beads called micro spheres. The micro spheres measure one-third the diameter of a human hair and are embedded with a radioactive element to target liver cancer cells.

TheraSphere® is delivered through a catheter that is positioned in the hepatic artery, the liver's main blood vessel. The physician guides the catheter into the branch of the hepatic artery that feeds the tumor and then infuses the micro spheres through the catheter into the tumor's blood supply. Once in the liver, the micro spheres get trapped in the small blood vessels that feed the tumor and radiation gets delivered directly to the tumor, sparing surrounding healthy tissue.

TheraSphere® is an outpatient treatment offered to patients with inoperable liver Cancer.