

About Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Eastern Regional Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Overview

At Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA) at Eastern Regional Medical Center (Eastern), there are approximately 400 employees and have over 100 physicians and clinicians on the medical staff. Cancer Treatment Centers of America offers some of the most advanced diagnostic and therapeutic technology in cancer treatment, including TomoTherapy HI-ART, MammoSite RTS, High Dose Rate Brachytherapy, TheraSphere, IMRT, Hyperthermia, 3D Conformal Radiation, Chemoembolization, Fractionated Dose Chemotherapy, Chemotherapy Resistance Testing. Additionally, we offer Cavitron Ultrasound Surgical Aspiration, Fluorescence Bronchoscopy, Radiofrequency Ablation, and Minimal Access Intervention Sentinel Node Biopsy.

Eastern has a capacity of 18 inpatient rooms, 4 ICU rooms, 2 surgery suites, state-of-the-art radiation therapy and infusion centers, rehab therapy and 18 outpatient guest accommodations. The hospital is growing and expansion plans are in the works to double the guest accommodations to 36 guest rooms and adding another 16 inpatient rooms for a total of 34 inpatient rooms.

Cancer Treatment Centers of America specializes in treating all types of cancer.

CTCA at Eastern Regional Medical Center Doctors and Staff

Dr. Steven B. Standiford, MD, FACS
Chief of Staff, Surgical Oncology

Dr, Frederick Brunk, MD
Medical Oncology

Dr. Dinesh Patel, MD
Medical Oncology

Dr. Rudolph Willis, MD
Medical Oncology

Dr. Mark Lund, MD
Interventional Pulmonology

Dr. Curt Heese, MD
Radiation Oncology

Dr. Richard Schmidt, MD
Orthopedic Oncology

Dr. Anthony Perre, MD
Chief of Medicine, Lead Hospitalist

Dr. David Tabby, DO
Neurology

Dr. Tara Morrison, MD
Neuro-Oncology

Dr. Sarah Fisher, MD
Anesthesiology

Dr. Fernando U. Garcia, MD
Pathology

Sharon Walker, RD, LD, CNSD
Director of Nutrition

Michelle Qaqundah, ND
Director of Naturopathic Medicine

Les Daroff, PhD
Director of Mind-Body Medicine

Rev. Michael Barry, DMin
Director of Pastoral Care and Social Services

Complementary Medicine

Nutrition

By complimenting conventional treatments with the fortifying effects of nutritional support, Eastern's Nutritional team works to ensure all patients eat a well-balanced diet rich in phytochemicals and cancer fighting vitamin and minerals.

The CTCA whole-person approach to cancer treatment is reinforced with a two-pronged approach to the nutrition program. A collaborative design 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 affects 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

Hyperthermia

Radiation therapy is often used as a first-line treatment to destroy several cancer tumors but if cancer returns treatment options historically have been limited. But now hyperthermia can help for recurrent and/or advanced cancers. It can also help on the initial course of radiation.

Hyperthermia accelerates the radiation dose which reduces the amount of radiation a patient needs to receive.

Hyperthermia delivers microwave energy (heat) directly into the tumor, heating it to about 108-110 degrees for up to 60 minutes. The heat then destroys a portion of the tumor and expands the blood vessels in the remainder of the tissue. This then increases the flow of blood and oxygen and makes the tumor more susceptible to the effects of radiation.

Treatment can be superficial (non-invasive) or done with probes placed under the skin. A treatment is 45-60 min in length. Patients can rest, read, or listen to music during treatment.

More than 30 clinical studies prove that hyperthermia is effective in treating many tumor types including breast, skin, brain, prostate, esophagus, cervix and head and neck.

Side effects are minimal and include the following:

Skin burns 9.9%
Pain 8.4%
Ulceration 3.6%
Infection 1.8%

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, CTCA 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 treatment begins
- Reduce radiation exposure to healthy surrounding tissue, often dramatically

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