

BROADCAST-New OSF Cancer Institute will advance use of specialized treatments

Anchor lead-in:

OSF HealthCare is getting ready to open a new 180-thousand square foot Cancer Institute in Peoria next month and it'll include a new suite for highly-targeted radiation called **BRACHYTHERAPY** (BRACK-ee-ther-UH-pee). It can be used for patients who have breast, prostate, and female pelvic area cancers, as well as skin and eye cancers. It's a lesser known treatment option that can boost survival rates by as much as 20% over traditional external beam radiation.

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Brachytherapy or implant radiation delivers treatment from inside the tumor and can provide more intense doses of radiation at the tumor site. OSF Radiation Oncologist Dr. James McGee says the precision applicators offer better control and can better preserve healthy tissue.

SOT Dr. James McGee

"Placing a radiation source directly into the patient's tumor allows for many advantages. In this way, the radiation is not going through normal tissues and has much less normal tissue effect. At the same time, it creates the need to be very individualized and very creative." (:13)

VO TAG: Brachytherapy reduces treatment and recovery time, along with side-effects and complications. It can be done as a stand-alone therapy or following a treatment course of five to six weeks of chemotherapy and traditional radiation.