Advanced IORT for Early Breast Cancers

INTRABEAM® IORT technology offered at St. Luke’s Anderson Campus will spare some women with early stage breast cancer weeks of radiation therapy

For women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer, a new revolution in treatment can spare some women weeks of radiation therapy. It’s known as intraoperative radiation therapy, or IORT. INTRABEAM® IORT is available at St. Luke’s Hospital-Anderson Campus. Fewer than 50 sites in the United States offer this advanced mobile IORT technology.

What makes IORT so unique? “In some cases, a single IORT treatment performed in the Operating Room immediately following lumpectomy may be the only radiation treatment a woman needs,” says Lee Riley, MD, PhD, FACS, Medical Director, Oncology Services, St. Luke’s University Health Network. “Still, women who require additional standard radiation therapy can have their treatments over a shorter period of time, reducing fatigue and skin irritation.”

Typically, women who are candidates for a breast cancer lumpectomy undergo surgical removal of the tumor followed by a six-week course of external beam radiation therapy (EBRT).

“EBRT continues to be a highly effective treatment approach and has long been considered the gold standard of care,” says Nimisha Deb, MD, Chief, Radiation Oncology, St. Luke’s University Health Network. “With a variety of treatments available for early stage patients, we can now personalize treatments with a range of radiation options based on tumor characteristics and patient convenience. IORT used alone or as a boost adds to our repertoire. It’s fast and effective and gives women who are candidates for breast conservation an excellent option.”