Backgrounder

The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute, opened August 14, 2006 in Jacksonville, Fla., is a cancer treatment facility that uses the most advanced technology available to treat and cure cancer. Proton therapy delivers a precise radiation treatment while destroying cancer cells and minimizing damage to healthy tissue. That reduces side effects and lessens the risk of developing complications from treatment in later life. It is especially beneficial for treating cancer in children and adults with cancers in sensitive areas like the head, neck, lung, brain and prostate.

UF Proton Therapy Institute is the only proton therapy center in the southeast United States and only one of six nationwide. UF Proton Therapy Institute is affiliated with the UF College of Medicine, a national leader in cancer treatment and research. A team of radiation oncologists, physicists, engineers and computer scientists, all faculty members at UF, delivers state-of-the-art cancer treatment and strives to set new standards for treating and curing the disease.

The 98,000-square-foot radiation medical facility houses both conventional radiation and proton therapy. Patients receive proton therapy in one of four treatment rooms – three equipped with gantries and one with a fixed beam. Each gantry is three-stories tall, weighs 200,000 pounds, is powered by two 1.5 horsepower motors, and rotates around the patient bed permitting proton therapy to be directed from any angle. The fixed beam treatment room delivers protons with a stationary device and can be used for patients with eye disorders, like macular degeneration. The facility also contains clinics for patient evaluations, treatment simulation and planning suites, an infusion and anesthesia suite, social and dietary services, research space and faculty offices. At capacity, the facility can treat up to 150 patients a day. For more information, visit www.floridaproton.org.

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