

IMMEDIATE RELEASE 19th February 2009

Cyberknife Breakthrough for Eye Cancer Patients

A leading cancer clinic in Munich has announced that it has successfully used Cyberknife treatment to remove uveal melanomas in more than 50 eye cancer patients.

The European Cyberknife Centre in Munich, in partnership with the University Eye Hospital Munich, has treated over 50 uveal melanoma patients using Cyberknife in the last three years. In each case, the operation was carried out under local anaesthetic in a single three-hour session, with the treatment itself lasting on average about one hour. The clinic reported that of the patients followed up, 90% showed no significant short-term side-effects and no sign of the eye cancer recurring.

Cyberknife is not a new treatment: clinics in the US and Europe have been using the system successfully for ten years to remove tumours in other parts of the body. However, this is the first confirmation that Cyberknife can be used safely to treat uveal melanoma.

This is extremely important news for eye cancer sufferers. Uveal melanoma is the most common form of eye cancer and has always been a difficult disease to treat. In fact, until relatively recently, the only solution for middle and large-sized tumours was to remove the patient's eye altogether.

Increasingly, some patients are now being treated with techniques such as brachytherapy, where small radioactive rods are implanted in the tumour. This is effective for small tumours but it is painful, requires several days in hospital and cannot be carried out in a single session.

Cyberknife is a high-precision radiosurgery tool that can target tumours precisely without harming the surrounding healthy cells. It is therefore able to treat cancers in parts of the body that cannot be reached by normal surgery. As it is non-invasive, there is no need for general anaesthesia or for the patient to be immobilised in a frame. Most treatments last no longer than an hour and the patient can usually get up and leave straight away without the need for recovery time.

For further information about Cyberknife and access to treatment, please visit the Medilux Healthcare Ltd website on www.mediluxhealth.net

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Please contact Steven Warren for further information on Cyberknife, Cyberknife procedures and patient stories. We can also arrange interviews with the clinical team at the European Cyberknife Centre.

Medilux Healthcare Ltd seeks out and promotes world-leading treatment centres and non-invasive medical technologies, including CyberKnife® radiosurgery. Our aim is to raise awareness and provide information to both patients and medical professionals.

We handle direct patient enquiries from around the world and operate a pre-screening service for Cyberknife® treatment. We obtain access for patients to the CyberKnife® Centres we represent and ensure that they receive a prompt response.