

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4th March 2009**

### **Patients Could Be Missing Out On Life-saving Treatments**

Some patients are not receiving treatments that could save or prolong their lives because their doctors do not know that those treatments exist.

Cyberknife radiosurgery is a case in point. It is neither new nor experimental: it is licensed by the FDA and has been used successfully over the past ten years in the US, Asia and Europe to treat certain cancers and conditions such as acoustic neuroma, trigeminal neuralgia and arteriovenous malformations (AVMs). Despite this, many patients in the UK, and sometimes even their cancer specialists, have not heard of it.

The situation is similar in Canada and Australia, where campaigners, convinced that lives are being lost unnecessarily, have put pressure on their governments to introduce Cyberknife treatment in their own countries.

Cyberknife was initially developed to treat cancers of the brain and spine, but can now also be used for tumours of the lung, prostate, pancreas, liver and eye. It is far more precise than standard radiosurgery tools, which means it causes minimal or no damage to healthy cells and can therefore treat cancers in parts of the body that cannot be reached by open surgery. It is non-invasive, so in most cases there is no need for a general anaesthetic and the risk of infection is greatly reduced. It is usually an out-patient procedure so there is minimal interruption to normal life.

Cyberknife treatment is not a miracle cure and is not suitable for everyone. Hospitals and clinics first need basic information about the condition and then a recent scan to assess whether the treatment is the best option for the patient. However, for some patients, Cyberknife can offer new hope or a better quality of life.

When a patient is diagnosed with a serious disease, it is natural for their specialists to recommend the best treatment available through their local health service. Often this is the best course of action, but some patients could get more appropriate and effective treatment if they had access to the right information.

For further information about Cyberknife and access to treatment, please visit the Medilux Healthcare Ltd website on [www.mediluxhealth.net](http://www.mediluxhealth.net)

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Please contact Steven Warren for further information on Cyberknife, Cyberknife procedures and patient stories.

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.

