

Rush University System for Health

Focal Therapy at Rush

Focal therapy, one of the latest non-invasive treatment options for patients with prostate cancer, gives physicians the ability to localize the disease. MRI and realtime ultrasound are used to map the prostate and pinpoint tumors to get the most accurate sample. Once the tumors have been found, the cancerous region of the prostate gland can be destroyed without removing the entire gland.

Patients are less likely to experience incontinence, impotence or rectal damage after the procedure, which makes it a popular choice for treatment. After the procedure, most patients are able to go home the next day and complications are minimal.

Focal therapy is best for intermediate stage prostate cancer patients who do not want to undergo surgery or traditional radiation therapy. It is most effective for patients who have cancer limited to only one side of the gland. The tumor should be easily seen with imaging so providers can determine where to treat the tumor.

Focal Therapy Techniques at Rush

NanoKnife Irreversible Electroporation Rush University Medical Center was selected as a site for an FDA approved clinical trial with an innovative energy called NanoKnife Irreversible Electroporation (IRE).

Before IRE treatment, the patient is fitted with a urinary catheter to protect the urethra and to prevent urinary retention. After the location of the tumor is identified with an MRI-guided biopsy, the patient is placed under general anesthesia and short electrical pulses are sent to the cancer cells to destroy them. Healthy tissue is preserved and can regenerate without any issues. Potency nerves are protected to avoid impotence and patients can return home the day after the procedure.

Cryoablation Ambulatory Program Cryoablation is a non-invasive option for patients who previously used radiation therapy to treat prostate cancer. It is also an option for patients with early stage prostate cancer where the cancer is confined to one gland.

With cryoablation, physicians monitor the temperature of healthy prostate tissue while using needles to freeze and kill the tumors. After this outpatient procedure, patients can return home the same day. Patients don't experience much pain and the procedure can be performed again, if needed.

High Intensity Focused Ultrasound Physicians at Rush use high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) therapy to treat patients whose cancer has not metastasized. Small tumors are located using high-resolution MRI and only areas where cancer cells have been identified are treated to maintain the function of the prostate.

During the procedure, an ultrasound probe is placed in the rectum to deliver heat to the focal point, destroying the prostate tumors. Treatment takes a few hours to complete and patients are able to return home the next day.

Location

Rush University Cancer Center

Professional Building
1725 W. Harrison St.
Suite 1010
Chicago, IL 60612

Learn more:
rush.edu/cancer



NanoKnife Irreversible Electroporation

Rush is the only medical center in Illinois—and one of only three locations in the United States—to offer this treatment.

High Intensity Focused Ultrasound

Rush University Medical Center is one of the only hospitals in Illinois to offer HIFU therapy.

Our Capabilities

Nationally Ranked Program: The oncology team at Rush University Medical Center is consistently ranked among the best in the country in U.S. News & World Report. Rush is currently ranked 48th out of more than 3,000 hospitals in the country for adult cancer care services. Overall, Rush University Medical Center is ranked 17th in the country, on the Best Hospitals Honor Roll, and 2nd in Illinois and Chicago.

Coleman Foundation Comprehensive Prostate Cancer Clinic: Prostate cancer patients receive care through the Coleman Foundation Comprehensive Prostate Cancer Clinic at Rush, where our multidisciplinary team of experts in radiation oncology, medical oncology and urology collaborate to create a personalized treatment plans for each patient.



Our Team

Urologists



Edward E. Cherullo, MD



Andrew J. Stephenson, MD



Alexander K. Chow, MD



Srinivas Vourganti, MD



Christopher L. Coogan, MD

Medical Oncologists



Timothy M. Kuzel, MD



Alan Tan, MD

Radiation Oncologists



Brett Cox, MD



Dian Wang, MD, PhD