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GAMMA KNIFE TECHNOLOGY NOW AVAILABLE AT CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER
New Center Adds to Comprehensive Cancer Treatment Options

LOS ANGELES (Nov. 28, 2006) – The latest Gamma Knife® technology is now available at Cedars-Sinai with the opening yesterday of the Gamma Knife Center at the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute.

The Gamma Knife Center is one of only a handful of facilities in the Los Angeles area to offer Gamma Knife surgery. The Gamma Knife is used to treat a range of lesions, tumors and conditions affecting the brain. The procedure is a non-invasive, non-surgical alternative to traditional treatments and is designed for brain lesions that are smaller than four centimeters. It uses up to 201 separate beams of radiation that converge at a single target point to remove a tumor or other abnormality without open surgery (craniotomy).

“Our Gamma Knife Center is very patient-focused. In addition to offering highly specialized treatment modalities, the center has large windows and a serene environment that will enhance patient comfort,” said John S. Yu, M.D., neurosurgeon and the center’s co-director with Behrooz Hakimian, M.D. “Our staff is well-trained to attend to patients’ needs. Patients will arrive in the morning, receive their therapy and then go home, usually by early afternoon.”

Other patient amenities include private treatment preparation rooms equipped with plasma screen televisions and DVD players. During the procedure, patients can listen to music through the iPod in the treatment room or bring in their own music CDs.

Although the first Gamma Knife was introduced in 1968, the technology and controlling software continue to grow in sophistication.

“The Gamma Knife delivers a full dose of radiation in one session. It is a fixed system that is extremely precise, which makes it an excellent choice for treating trigeminal neuralgias and other ‘functional’ abnormalities,” said Keith L. Black, M.D., interim chair of Neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai and director of the Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute.

The Center’s team of experts, including the radiation oncologists and physicists, will work closely with the neurosurgeons to plan each patient’s treatment. The Gamma Knife can be used to treat:

- Benign brain tumors, including acoustic neuromas, meningiomas and pituitary adenomas;
- Primary brain tumors, including hemangiomas, meningiomas, schwannomas, hemangioblastomas, and all forms of cancer that have spread to the brain;
- Arteriovenous malformations;
- Trigeminal neuralgia;

(more)

- Thalamic pain syndrome, and
- Pineal tumors

For more information, call (310) 423-4204.

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One of seven hospitals in California whose nurses have been honored with the prestigious Magnet designation, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is one of the largest nonprofit academic medical centers in the Western United States. For 18 consecutive years, it has been named Los Angeles' most preferred hospital for all health needs in an independent survey of area residents. Cedars-Sinai is internationally renowned for its diagnostic and treatment capabilities and its broad spectrum of programs and services, as well as breakthroughs in biomedical research and superlative medical education. It ranks among the top 10 non-university hospitals in the nation for its research activities and is fully accredited by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). Additional information is available at www.cedars-sinai.edu.

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