

Ireland's First CyberKnife Centre



Hermitage Medical Clinic offers CyberKnife treatment, the world's first and only robotic radio-surgery system

The CyberKnife System, a non-invasive alternative to surgery for the treatment of both cancerous and non-cancerous tumours anywhere in the body, was successfully introduced to Ireland last November at the Hermitage Medical Clinic (HMC), Dublin.

Laurenz Egan was one of the first patients treated by CyberKnife at the Hermitage Medical Clinic. He was found to have a recurring acoustic neuroma brain tumour in 2007 and was prepared to go to the United States to have this non-invasive treatment rather than consider open surgery. He had been down that road 3 times before when the original tumour was diagnosed and open surgery carried a significantly greater risk and the recovery time was significantly longer. His treatment for the recurrence of the tumour involved close monitoring with his Consultant Neurosurgeon, Mr. Danny Rawluk.

Mr Rawluk made it clear at that time that observation was the initial management of his case. He had a series of MRI's which monitored the growth of the tumour over the coming years leading up to Mr Rawluk's decision

in early 2013 to treat the tumour using the CyberKnife technology. At that time Mr Rawluk was treating patients using this technology in London and Laurenz was pleased to go with his recommendation to wait for the arrival of CyberKnife in Ireland at the Hermitage Medical Clinic. He was impressed with the Hermitage Clinic since his first visit and each visit since. Whilst the facilities are first class what continued to impress him most was the staff. From the specialist staff, to the medical support staff, to the administrative staff, he always felt well looked after. During the CyberKnife treatment Laurenz lay on a bed for less than one hour with a mask attached to his head to ensure a fixed position. After the procedure Laurenz walked out to see his relieved wife and was sent home a short while later. It was a privilege for him to discover that he was the first patient treated in Ireland on this wonderful technology.

The Hermitage Medical Clinic has treated sixteen patients since its inception and interest in the System is growing steadily since the start of the year. CyberKnife can be used to treat tumours that are located in difficult or

dangerous positions. It is also successful in the treatment of tumours in the spinal cord, prostate, lung, brain, liver, pancreas and kidney."

There is a job to be done in terms of communicating information about the system and in educating those who are in a position to refer patients for this non-invasive treatment.

To that end the Hermitage Medical Clinic will run a symposium at the CyberKnife Centre in Lucan on March 1st targeting appropriate clinicians. It will include presentations by notable expert speakers from the US, Germany and the UK, who will explain the uses and outcomes of the CyberKnife System. These will include Dr. Alan Katz (NY) who will present on CyberKnife SBRT for Organ Confined Prostate Cancer, Dr. Ronald Beaney (UK) on a UK Oncologist's view on the subject of Intracranial Lesions and Prof Berndt Wowra (Germany) on Therapeutic Profile of Intracranial Radio-surgery in key Indications.

For further information and a complete Agenda on the Symposium please contact Karen on 01 6459216 or kwalsh@hermitageclinic.ie