

The Rosenfeld Cancer Center Offering the Specialized Services of a Tertiary Metropolitan Hospital

Just three years ago Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, Pa., opened the doors to its redesigned and more centralized cancer facility, the Rosenfeld Cancer Center. Rosenfeld is one of the busiest cancer facilities in the Delaware Valley, serving more than 1,700 new cancer patients every year.

Abington offers its patients access to leading-edge technology and many national clinical trials and research studies. The cancer program accrues about 20 to 30 new patients a year to Gynecology Oncology Group (GOG) trials, and last year accrued about 20 new patients to Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) trials. Abington also participates in the STAR Trial (NSABP-2) and the SELECT study, and recently joined the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG).

Abington is a regional suburban teaching hospital, and its residents have access to innovative programs in cancer care. Residents from Temple University and other area medical schools rotate through Abington's 19-bed inpatient oncology unit and outpatient cancer center. All of them are involved in the community screening programs for breast and prostate cancer. Once a month, a tumor conference is held specifically for the residents so they can discuss cases with the house staff and consultants.

New Radiation Oncology Technology

The Greenwald Radiation Oncology Center, located within



the Rosenfeld Cancer Center, features two dual-energy linear accelerators (a Siemens Primus and a Mevatron) with multiple electron energies and digital computer control. In addition, the center has a 3-D Conformal Treatment Planning System, which fuses information derived from the MRI and CT scanner to create an optimal radiation treatment plan. The new Nucletron/Oldelft Simulator allows patients to have a CT scan at the time of their radiation treatment planning.

All the technology at the Greenwald center is networked and fully integrated. Four radiation

oncologists, a radiation physicist, and two dosimetrists, all of whom are board certified, are on staff.

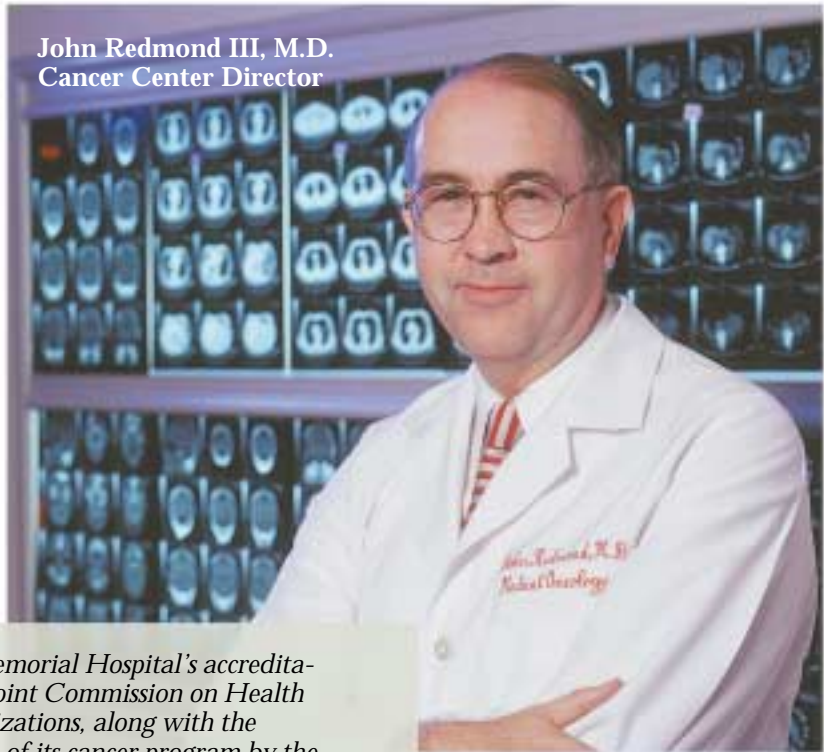
Patient-Centered Care

Rosenfeld Cancer Center's goal is to meet every patient's total medical, psychological, and social needs. Pain management is a priority, and the pain specialists in the Department of Anesthesiology have completed advanced training in managing the pain of cancer.

The Evaluation Services Program is "the center of the wheel" of Abington's cancer program. According to John Redmond III,

PROFILE

John Redmond III, M.D.
Cancer Center Director



M.D., director of the cancer center and chief of the Division of Medical Oncology, the program evolved from the hospital's tumor boards and offers patients the opportunity to attend a conference where their case is evaluated by a variety of specialists, all of whom they are free to question. The evaluation services are for patients with most types of cancer, including gastrointestinal/colorectal, pulmonary, and urological malignancies. Medical residents are also invited to attend.

"These conferences are real-time, patient-focused management sessions. They are some of our best learning conferences and serve to help coordinate our cancer care," Redmond said. Evaluations last about an hour and are free. Many cancer patients use the service for a second opinion.

New evaluation services are gradually being developed. Within the past two years, thyroid cancer has been added, and 37 new thyroid cancer cases were evaluated last year by the hospital's endocrinologists, cytopathologists, nuclear medicine specialists, and head and neck surgeons. Lymphoma-leukemia conferences were also started during the past three years. Redmond said a CNS brain tumor evaluation service is expected to begin in the near future.

The cancer center now offers a risk assessment program for patients and members of the community who may be at risk for developing breast and/or ovarian cancer. The process begins with the oncology nurse reviewing the participant's family history and personal health history. The participant receives a risk assessment, education regarding risk factors, and information about genetic testing. If a participant appears to be at high risk, genetic testing may be recom-

Abington Memorial Hospital's accreditation by the Joint Commission on Health Care Organizations, along with the accreditation of its cancer program by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, assures patients that Abington's Rosenfeld Cancer Center meets the highest national standards for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

Vital Statistics

- Total hospital bed size: 508
- Dedicated cancer unit beds: 19
- Number of new analytic cancer cases seen per year: 1,539
- Managed care penetration in the state: 34 percent

mended. The nurse specialist provides counseling for those with concerns about their risk.

Over the past two years a radiofrequency ablation (RFA) program for liver tumors was started, which involves the center's interventional radiologists and surgical oncologists. The center performs

Selected Patient Support Services

- A twice-monthly Cancer Support Group facilitated by an oncology social worker.
- Two self-help groups—"A New Beginning" for breast cancer patients/families, and "Man-to-Man" for men with prostate cancer and their loved ones. The latter is cosponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS).
- ACS joins in two other Abington programs. "Look Good, Feel Better" helps female cancer patients with cosmetic issues. "I Can Cope" addresses issues facing all patients with cancer such as treatment side effects, insurance concerns, and the fears of spouses and children.
- Oncology social workers offer inpatient and outpatient counseling, and conduct grief recovery support groups.
- A van service offers transportation to and from the hospital for outpatient visit and for those patients who have no other means of transportation. A nominal charge is involved.

the procedure on at least one new patient per month with good results.

"Our patients receive excellent, compassionate care," said Susan Nolte, R.N., a certified nurse practitioner. "We provide the highest quality medical care, along with great hope for the future." ☐