


**TEXAS CENTER**  
for PROTON THERAPY

## Benefits of Proton Therapy...

### As Prevention of Radiation Toxicity and the Mechanics of New Technology



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Medical Director  
Texas Center for Proton Therapy

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**Andrew K. Lee, MD, MPH has the following financial relationship to disclose: Consultant and on speaker bureau for Tolmar Pharmaceuticals**

**This presentation will not discuss investigational or off-label use of therapeutics**

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### Clinical benefits of proton therapy

- **Higher radiation doses to tumor**
- **Minimizes dose to normal tissues**
- **Better tumor control**
- **Decreased side effects: early and late**
- **Preserve organ function**
- **Better tolerance of multi-modality therapy**  
e.g. Chemotherapy and/or surgery

*"One cannot have a radiation-induced side effect in tissue that receives no radiation."*

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### What cases to consider for protons therapy?

**Pediatric**

Adults w/ projected longevity >15 years

Primary CNS  
Skull-base  
Mets

Para-nasal sinus  
Nasopharynx  
Oropharynx (especially younger HPV+)

Breast or chest wall + lymphatics (L, R, Bilateral)  
Partial breast (APBI)  
Recurrences (especially IMN)

Anterior/Posterior mediastinum  
Lymphoma  
NSCLC (stage II-III, non-operative)  
SBRT

Distal esophagus (definitive, preop)  
Liver

Seminoma

Prostate  
RP sarcomas  
Anal Ca  
Recurrent rectal

Mets

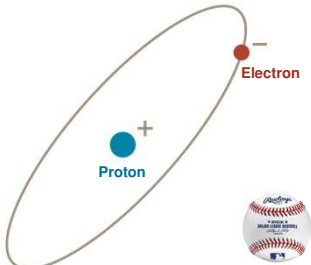
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## How are protons different from X-rays?

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### Proton is hydrogen atom without electron (Heavy particle)



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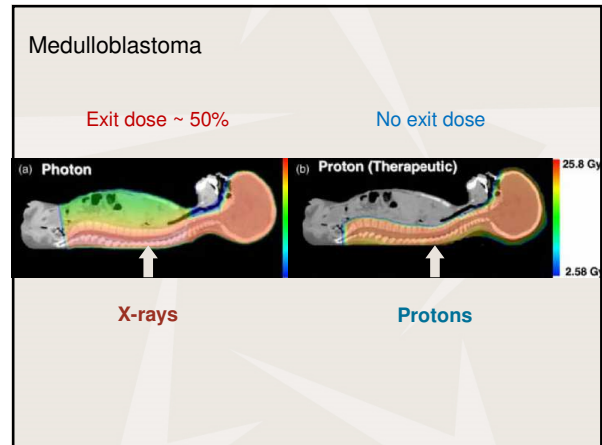
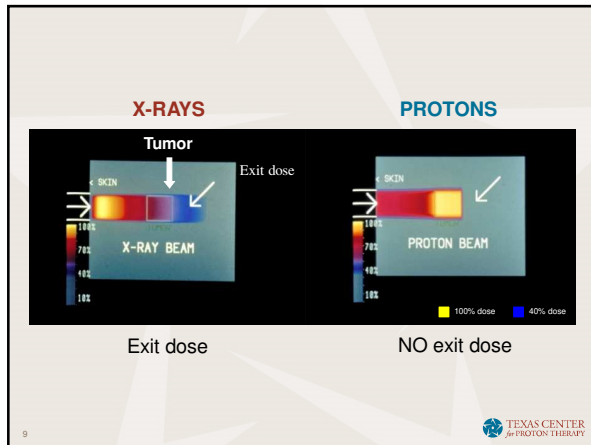
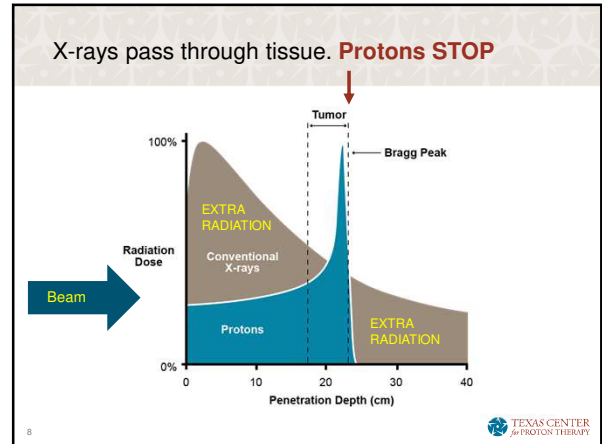
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Protons are **accelerated** to almost light speed for treatment

Hyper-speed protons are used like "smart bullets" to kill cancer cells.

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Key components

**Cyclotron**  
Using electric fields, the cyclotron can accelerate hydrogen protons to two-thirds the speed of light.

**Gantry**  
Giant gantries provide the beam pathway to treatment nozzle, utilizing series of steering and focusing magnets.

**Electromagnets**  
Magnets focus and steer proton beam to gantries.

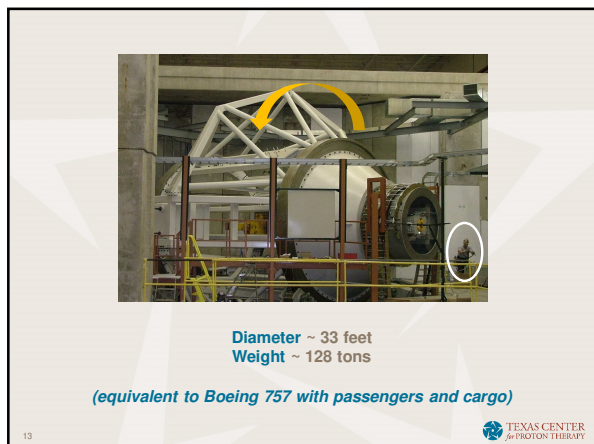
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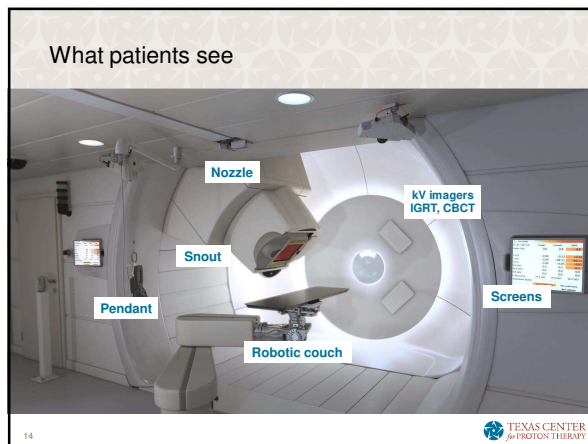
Cyclotron accelerates protons to ~ 2/3 light speed.  
Protons travel over 300,000 miles before reaching the patient (travelling around the world more than 12 times).

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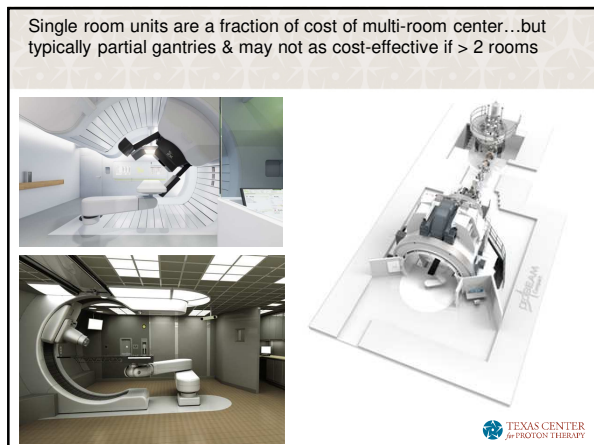
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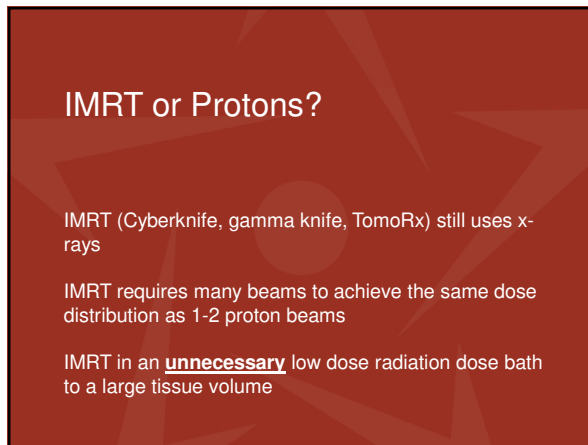
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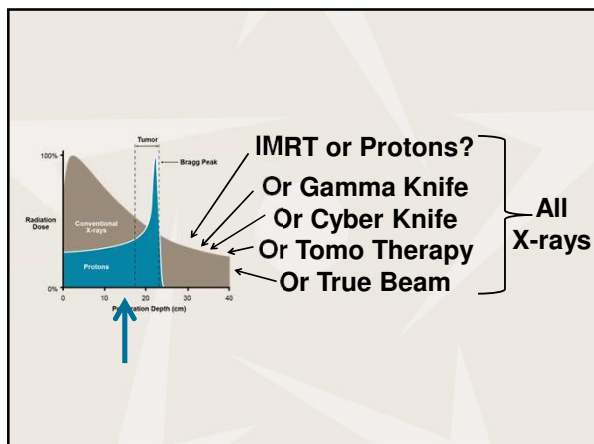
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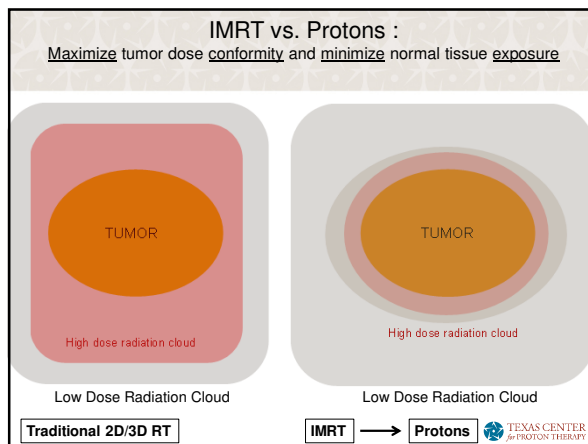
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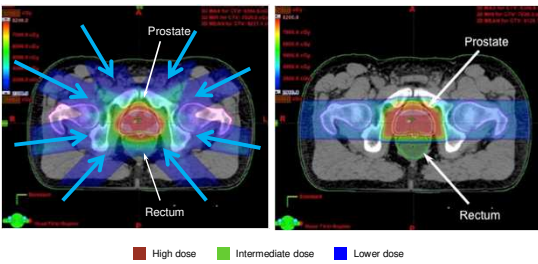


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IMRT and Proton plans are both conformal  
Proton plan delivers less radiation to normal tissue



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IMRT men had more **moderate-big problems**

	IMRT	Protons	P-value/ Bonferroni
Bowel urgency	15%	7%	0.001/ 0.02
Bowel frequency	10%	4%	0.003/0.05

Proton therapy decreased the incidence of "moderate to big" bowel problems reported by patients by 50%.

- Post-hoc analysis of prospectively collected EPIC:  
IMRT (n=204) 75.6-79.4 Gy (42-44 tx) PROSTQA  
PBT (n=1243) 76-82 GyE (38-41 tx) UFPTI

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Source: Hoppe et al., Cancer 2014; 120:1076-82

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Why Proton Therapy?  
Eliminate unnecessary radiation exposure

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ALARA principle:  
As Low As Reasonably Achievable



Make every reasonable effort to reduce exposure to ionizing radiation


Title 10, Section 20.1003, of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 20.1003)

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Prostate cancer



\* 25 Gy (25 Sv) of Unnecessary Radiation =

- 2,500 Pelvic CTs (10 mSv)
- 20,833 Pelvic X-Rays (1.2 mSv)
- 25,000x General Public Annual Limit (1.0 mSv)
- 1.83x Additional Cancer Risk\* (CTs, 65 yo)

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Source: Matt Palmer  
\* <http://www.xrayrisk.com/calculator/calculator-normal-studies.php>

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Longer waits result in more second cancers

	Latency 5-9 years	Latency 10-14 years	Latency ≥15 years	p-trend
Oral/pharynx	1.12 (0.99 to 1.27)	1.14 (0.95 to 1.38)	0.95 (0.74 to 1.22)	0.34
Rectum*	1.13 (0.94 to 1.35)	1.33 (1.03 to 1.70)	0.91 (0.64 to 1.27)	0.54
Larynx	1.57 (1.08 to 2.36)	1.04 (0.66 to 1.70)	1.29 (0.75 to 2.30)	0.45
Lung (non-small cell)	1.12 (0.98 to 1.27)	1.37 (1.12 to 1.65)	1.62 (1.23 to 2.09)	0.0079
Female breast	1.17 (1.05 to 1.30)	1.42 (1.24 to 1.62)	1.56 (1.34 to 1.81)	0.0013
Cervix (external beam)*	1.18 (0.79 to 1.75)	1.55 (1.00 to 2.40)	2.59 (1.84 to 3.68)	0.0032
Endometrium (external beam)*	1.30 (1.08 to 1.56)	1.99 (1.60 to 2.47)	2.18 (1.78 to 2.65)	<0.0001
Prostate (external beam)*	1.39 (1.29 to 1.50)	1.59 (1.41 to 1.80)	1.91 (1.53 to 2.38)	0.0031
Thyroid*	0.89 (0.49 to 1.55)	1.03 (0.47 to 2.14)	1.21 (0.64 to 2.17)	0.47

Relative risk of second cancer at 10-14 years = 1.6, at 15 years RR = 1.9

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Source: de Gonzalez et al., Lancet Oncol, Mar 2011


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### Protons reduce second cancers

- MGH report spanning 26 years (1974-2001)
- Matched 558 patients treated with protons (20% also received some X-rays) vs. X-ray patients from SEER registry
- CNS 32%, HN 24%, prostate 33%, sarcoma 7.8% (no ocular)
- Second cancer rates were 6.9 vs. 10.3 (per 1000 person-years) for protons vs. XRT, respectively
- Adjusted for sex, age at treatment, primary site, year of diagnosis
- Protons HR for second cancers was 0.52 (p=0.009)

25 Source: Chung et al., Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 87, 2013



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### Second cancer risk after primary cancer treatment with three-dimensional conformal, intensity modulated, or proton beam radiation therapy.

[M Xiang et al. Cancer May 2020, PMID 3246866]

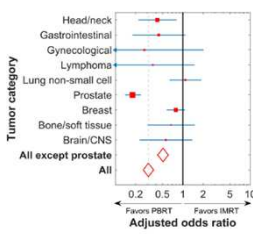



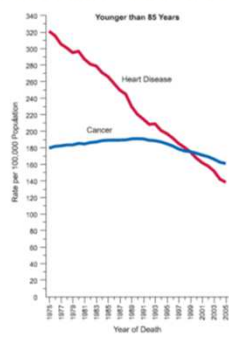
FIGURE 3. This is a forest plot of adjusted odds ratios (log axis) for the risk of second cancer for proton beam radiation therapy (PBRT) relative to intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) by tumor type. Horizontal bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. Sizes of the markers are proportional to the relative number of cases. CNS indicates central nervous system.

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### Competing risk of death



27 Source: Cancer J Clin 2009;99




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### Pediatric tumors

Regular X-ray therapy may have side effects even at low doses for young children.

- Growth disturbances
- Decreased functional outcomes  
*Hearing, vision, neurocognitive, etc.*
- Cosmesis
- Second cancers

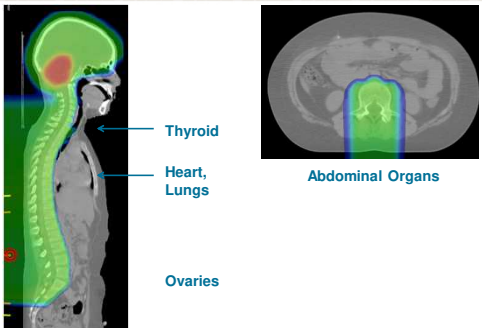


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### Protons reduce second cancers and have other benefits

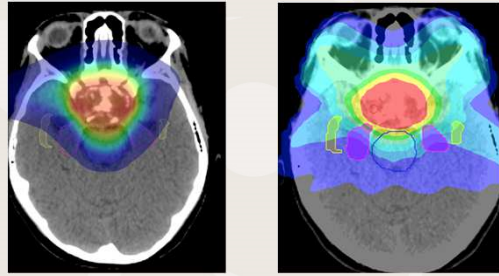


29 Source: MDACC




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### Protons vs. IMRT (X-rays)



30 Source: MDACC



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### Randomized Phase II Trial of Proton Craniospinal Irradiation Versus Photon Involved-Field Radiotherapy for Patients With Solid Tumor Leptomeningeal Metastasis

**Randomized phase II of Proton CSI vs. Photon IFRT with NSCLC and breast cancer with leptomeningeal spread (3 Gy x 10)**

**Median PFS 7.5 vs. 2.3 months,  $p < 0.001$  in favor of Protons CSI**

**Median OS 9.9 vs. 6.0 months,  $p = 0.029$**

[Tang et al. J Clin Oncol 2022, PMID 35802849]

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**FIG 2.** Patients who were randomly assigned to pCSI had significantly improved (A) CNS time to progression, (B) CNS PFS, and (C) OS. IFRT, involved-field radiotherapy; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; pCSI, proton craniospinal irradiation.

[Tang et al. J Clin Oncol 2022, PMID 35802849]

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## ASTRO News Release

TARGETING CANCER CARE

### Avoiding specific region of brain during whole-brain radiotherapy prevents memory loss

Atlanta, September 23, 2013—Limiting the amount of radiation absorbed in the hippocampal portion of the brain during whole-brain radiotherapy (WBRT) for brain metastases preserves memory function in patients for up to six months after treatment, according to research presented today at the American Society for Radiation Oncology’s (ASTRO’s) 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

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### Lymphoma patients are often young and often cured but may suffer long-term side effects

- We are curing our patients but they are dying of late treatment-related side effects such as secondary tumors and heart disease
- Radiation for lymphoma needs to have LOW side effects

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### 10-15 years after treatment, other factors overcome Hodgkins disease as main cause of death

**Fig 2. Compelling causes of death.**

\*\* Increased solid tumor risk in XRT patients

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### Cumulative incidence of cardiac disorders among childhood cancer survivors increases with mean cardiac radiation dose

Daniel A Mulrooney et al. BMJ 2009;339:bmj.b4606  
©2009 by British Medical Journal Publishing Group

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30-yo woman stage II Hodgkins lymphoma  
Disease initially wrapped around right side of heart

Plan was chemotherapy followed by consolidative RT

37 Source: Valerie Reed, M.D. TEXAS CENTER for PROTON THERAPY

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IMRT vs. PBT for Lymphoma

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Protons better for disease in front of the heart and behind the heart (avoid heart and breast tissue)

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Anterior tumors (e.g. lung, thymoma, lymphoma)

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Protons can keep dose anteriorly

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Cardiac risk for Hodgkin lymphoma survivors  
ERR 7.4% per Gy (mean heart dose)

Mean Heart Dose (Gy)	RR (Rate Ratio)	Lower bound	Upper bound
0	1.0	1.0	1.0
5	1.5	1.2	1.8
10	2.0	1.5	2.5
15	2.5	1.8	3.2
20	3.0	2.1	4.0
25	3.5	2.4	4.8
30	4.0	2.7	5.6
35	4.5	3.0	6.4
40	5.0	3.3	7.2

42 F. Van Nimwegen et al. J Clin Oncol 2015;34 TEXAS CENTER for PROTON THERAPY

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Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys. xxx (2020) xxx

ELSEVIER

doi:10.1016/j.ijrobp.2019.05.007

**CLINICAL INVESTIGATION**

**RATIONALE FOR AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF PROTON BEAM THERAPY FOR MEDIASTINAL LYMPHOMA**

JING LI, M.D., PH.D., BOGHIANA DABAJA, M.D., VALERIE REED, M.D., PAMELA K. ALLAN, PH.D., HISHOBU CMAI, M.S., MAYANKUMAR V. ANSIN, JOHN A. GABRIS, B.S., AND JAMIE D. COX, M.D.

Department of Radiation Oncology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas

**Purpose:** To evaluate the potential of three-dimensional proton beam therapy (3D-PBT) for reducing doses to normal structures in patients with mediastinal lymphomas compared with conventional photon radiation therapy (RT).

**Methods and Materials:** We treated 10 consecutive patients with mediastinal masses from lymphomas with 3D-PBT between July 2007 and February 2009 in 30- to 50-Gy sublethal regimens (CAL). Of these patients, 7 had primary a radiation of recurrent disease, and 3 had Hodgkin lymphoma. Dose-limiting complications were compared with those from conventional RT plans.

**Results:** PBT delivered lower mean doses to the lung (6.2 vs. 8.0 Gy), esophagus (6.0 vs. 22.3 Gy), and heart (8.6 vs. 17.7 Gy) and the brachy (5.9 vs. 6.4 Gy) than did conventional RT. Percentages of lung, esophagus, heart, and coronary artery (particularly the left anterior descending artery) volumes receiving radiation were consistently lower in the 3D-PBT plans over a wide range of radiation doses. Of the 7 patients who had residual disease on post-treatment imaging before PBT, 6 (86%) showed a complete metabolic response.

**Conclusion:** In patients with mediastinal lymphomas, 3D-PBT produced significantly lower doses to the lung, esophagus, heart, and coronary arteries than did the current conventional RT. These lower doses would be expected to reduce the risk of late toxicities in these major organs. © 2019 Elsevier Inc.

**3D-PBT produced significantly lower doses to the lung, esophagus, heart and coronary arteries...these lower doses would be expected to reduce the risk of late toxicities in these major organs.**

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Esophageal Cancer

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Improved perioperative pulmonary complications with proton therapy

- 444 patients who had surgery after CRT
- 3D (n=208, 1998-2008); IMRT (N=164, 2004-2011), and PBT (n=72, 2006-2011)
- Evaluated Pulmonary, GI, cardiac, wound healing within 30 days of surgery
- Pulmonary complications** (ARDS, pleural effusion, RI, PNA) most predictive based on radiation type
  - IMRT vs 3D (OR 0.50, 95% CI 0.27-0.91)
  - PBT vs 3D (OR 0.32, 95% CI 0.14-0.73)
  - IMRT vs PBT (OR 1.56, 95% CI 0.68-3.60)

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Source: Wang J, Lin SH, et al. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2013

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Value of proton therapy in esophageal cancer

Mean Length of Hospital Stay 2007-2013

Protons reduces average hospital stay by ~2 days and max hospital days

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Source: Lin SH et al., ASTRO 2015

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**Randomized Phase IIB Trial of Proton Beam Therapy Versus Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy for Locally Advanced Esophageal Cancer**

Shawn H. Lin, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Brian P. Hobbs, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Vivek Verma, MD<sup>1</sup>; Rebecca S. Tidwell, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Grace L. Smith, MD, PhD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>; Xudong Lei, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Erin M. Corini, MD<sup>1</sup>; Isabele Mok, RN<sup>1</sup>; Xiong Wei, MD<sup>1</sup>; Luyang Yao, MS<sup>1</sup>; Xin Wang, MD<sup>1</sup>; Ritsuko U. Komaki, MD<sup>1</sup>; Joe Y. Chang, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Stephen G. Chun, MD<sup>1</sup>; Mikanda D. Jeter, MD<sup>1</sup>; Stephen G. Swisher, MD<sup>1</sup>; Jaffer A. Ajani, MD<sup>1</sup>; Marisa Blum-Martyr, MD<sup>1</sup>; Aja A. Vagstad, MD<sup>1</sup>; Ron J. Mohan, MD<sup>1</sup>; Albert C. Koong, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Samuel J. Gandji, MD<sup>1</sup>; Wayne L. Hofstetter, MD<sup>1</sup>; Theodore S. Hong, MD<sup>1</sup>; Thomas F. Delaney, MD<sup>1</sup>; Zhongxing Liao, MD<sup>1</sup>; and Radhe Mohan, PhD<sup>1</sup>

Phase IIB randomized 145 patients to PBT or IMRT (50.4 Gy) with chemotherapy

30 went onto esophagectomy

Total Toxicity Burden (TTB) and PFS

Median FU 44.1 months

TTB was 2.3X higher for IMRT vs. PBT

3-y PFS 50.8 vs. 51.2%, 3-y OS 44.5 vs. 44.5%

J Clin Oncol 38:1569-79, 2020

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TTB: Blue is less toxic....Red is more toxic

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Lin et al. J Clin Oncol 38:1569-79, 2020

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Protons may reduce unplanned hospitalizations in patients receiving ChemoRT for locally-advanced cancer

**UPENN retrospectively reviewed 1483 adult locally-adv Ca pts treated with concurrent chemoRT with curative intent 2011-2016**

**PBT = 391      Photon = 1092**


**90-day adverse events CTCAEv4 grade 2 or greater gathered prospectively**

**PBT pts were older, more comorbidities, but lower integral radiation dose outside of target volumes**

**PBT had lower 90-day adverse events  $\geq$  grade 3 (0.31, p=0.002) and  $\geq$  grade 2 (0.78, p=0.006)**

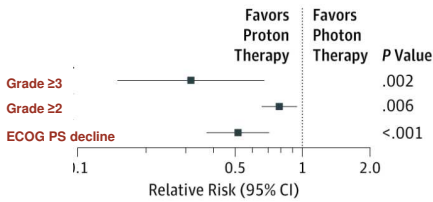
**Also less decline in ECOG PS during Rx (0.51, p<0.001)**

Baumann et al. JAMA Oncol 6: 237-46, 2020




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Outcome	Proton CRT Group (n=391)		Photon CRT Group (n=1092)		Relative Risk (95% CI)
	No. of Events	Percentage (95% CI)	No. of Events	Percentage (95% CI)	
90-day Grade $\geq 3$ adverse events	45	11.5% (8.3%-14.7%)	301	27.6% (24.9%-30.2%)	0.31 (0.15-0.66)
90-day Grade $\geq 2$ adverse events	290	74.2% (69.8%-78.5%)	926	84.8% (82.7%-86.9%)	0.78 (0.65-0.93)
ECOG performance status decline	145	37.1% (32.3%-41.9%)	434	42.4% (39.4%-45.4%)	0.51 (0.37-0.71)

Baumann et al. JAMA Oncol 6: 237-46, 2020




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What is “new” in proton therapy?

- Proton therapy has improved as technology has advanced (just like X-ray therapy)
- Imaging (OBI and CBCT)
- Treatment planning (software)
- Treatment delivery systems
- Intensity modulation
- Immobilization
- Arc therapy
- FLASH

Baumann et al. JAMA Oncol 6: 237-46, 2020




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Types of proton therapy delivery


- Passive scattered (most common)
- Spot-scanning (pencil-beam scanning)
- Intensity modulated proton therapy (IMPT)

Baumann et al. JAMA Oncol 6: 237-46, 2020




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Spot scanning (pencil-beam scanning)

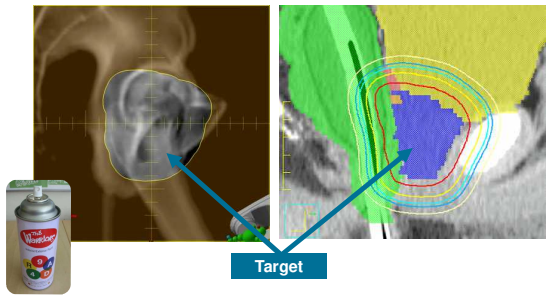


Baumann et al. JAMA Oncol 6: 237-46, 2020




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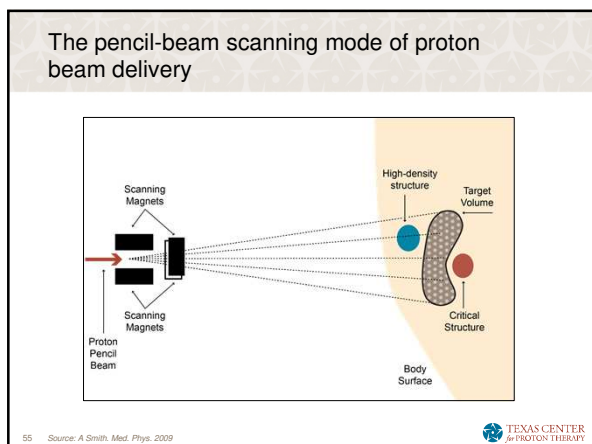
“Conventional” proton therapy (Right lateral beam’s eye view)



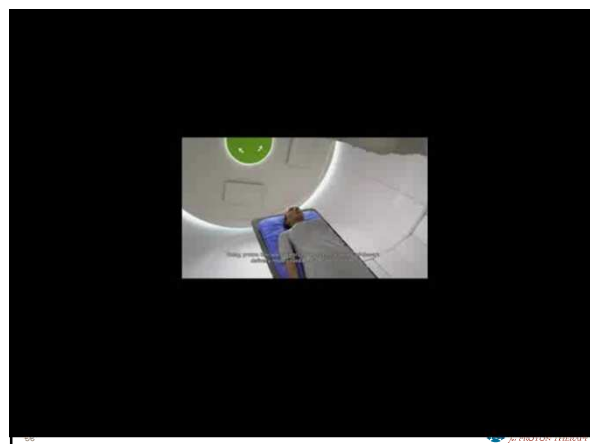
Baumann et al. JAMA Oncol 6: 237-46, 2020



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### Any randomized trials between IMRT vs. Protons should be done with PBS (IMPT)

	2 D X-rays	3 D X-rays	IMRT	CONVENTIONAL PROTONS (Passive-scattered)	IMPT Intensity modulated proton therapy
Conformity	+	++	++++	+++1/2	++++
Normal tissue exposure	+++	+++	++++	++	++

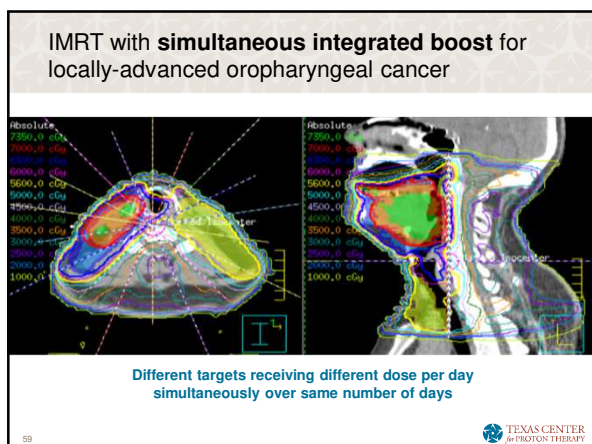
Highly conformal but less tissue exposure

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### Pencil Beam Scanning advantages

- Improved conformity...especially for concave structures
- Less hardware...fewer patient specific devices
- More beam angles are logistically feasible
- Intensity modulated proton therapy (IMPT)
- More flexibility for concomitant boost techniques e.g. Target A treated at 1.8 GyE per fraction and Target B simultaneously treated at 2.2 GyE per fraction over same number of days
- Fewer neutrons

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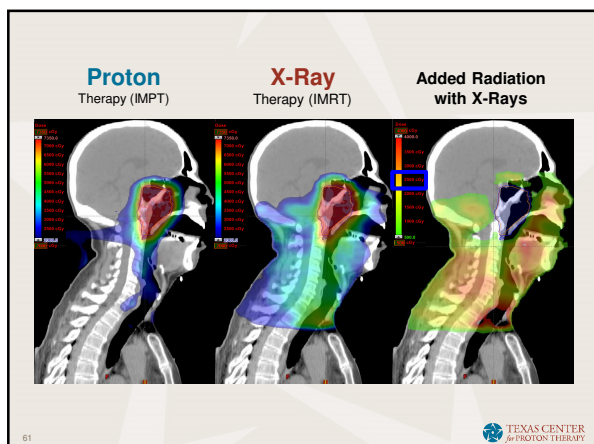


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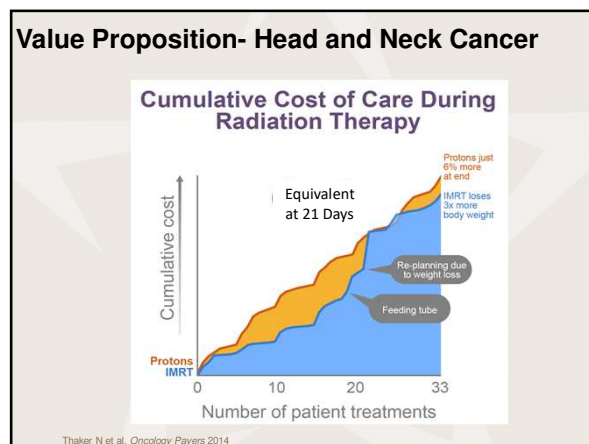
### Concurrent Chemo-radiation w/ IMPT (protons)

1. Decrease mucositis
2. Decrease odynophagia
3. Decrease N/V
4. Decrease weight loss
5. No PEG tube
6. Decrease xerostomia
7. Maintain taste
8. Decrease dysphagia

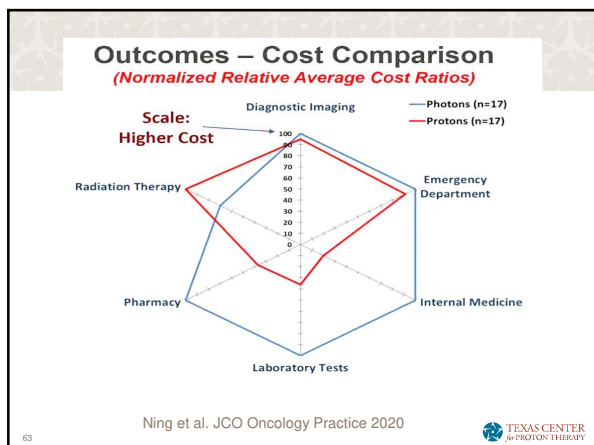
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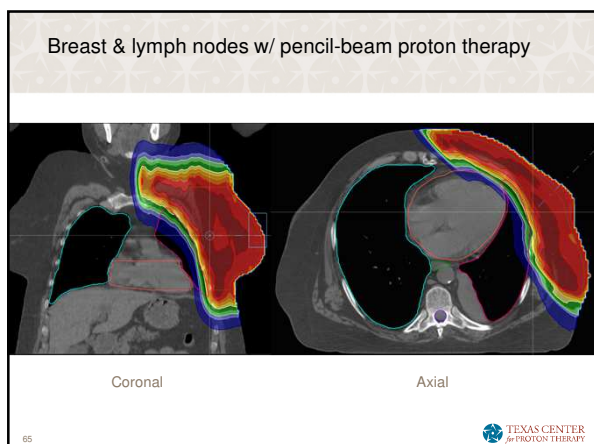
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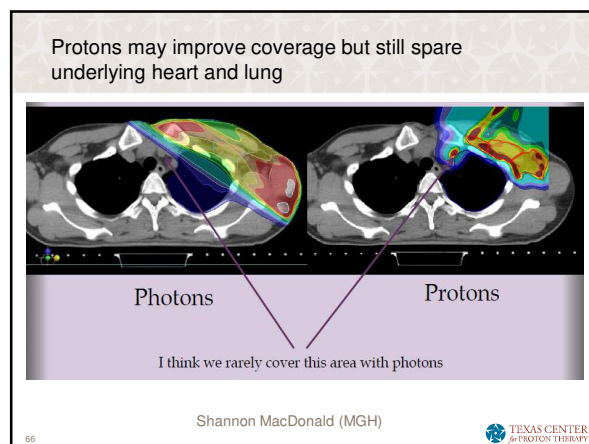
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Beyond tumor sites like CNS & HN, how can pencil beam scanning proton therapy (IMPT) expand the clinical utility of proton therapy?

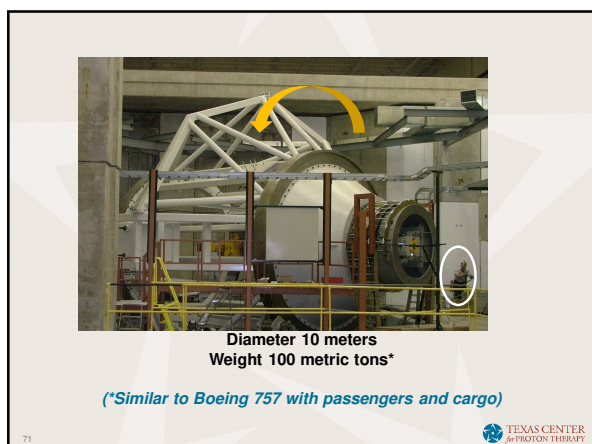
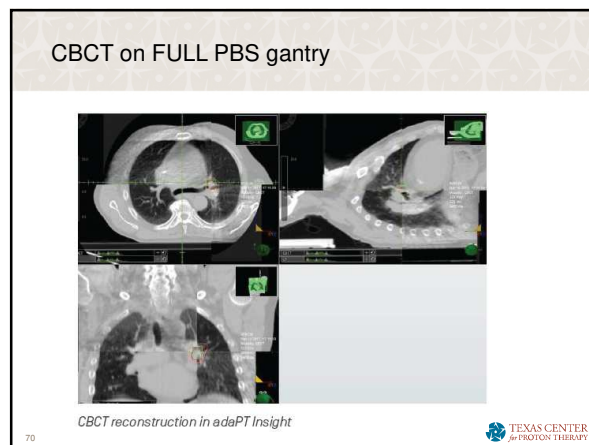
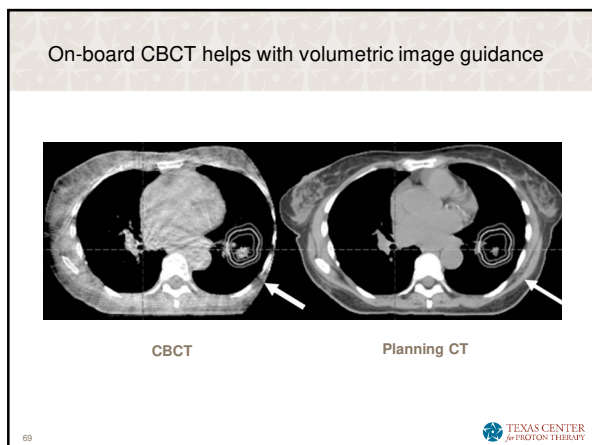
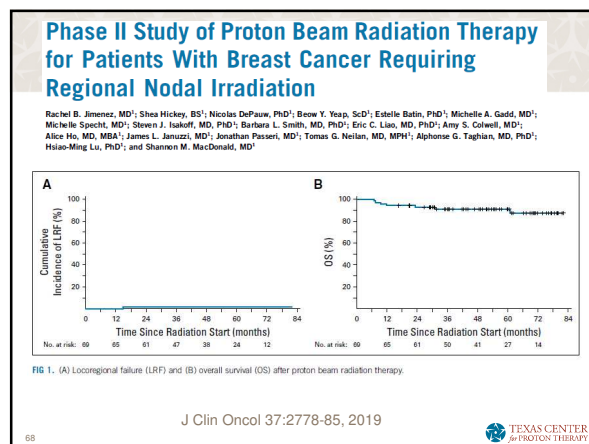
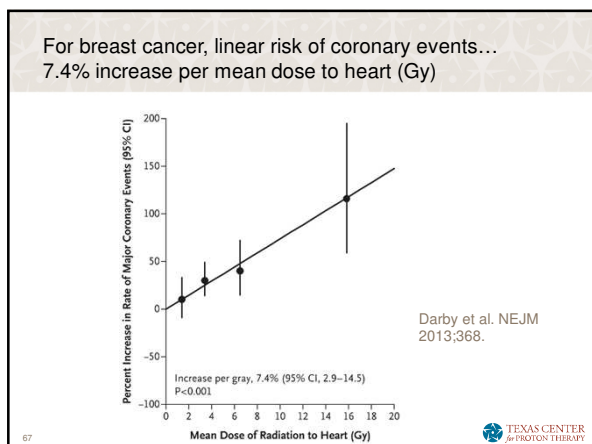
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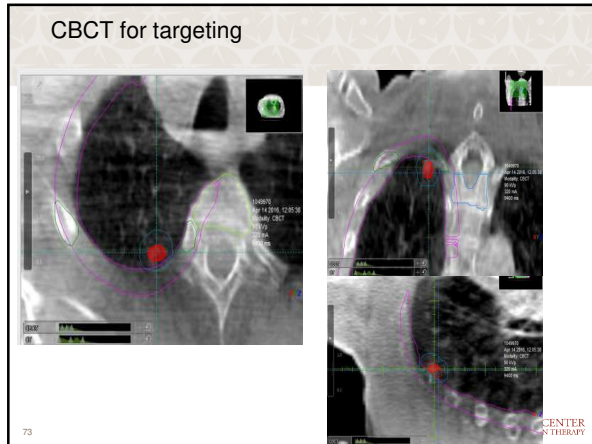
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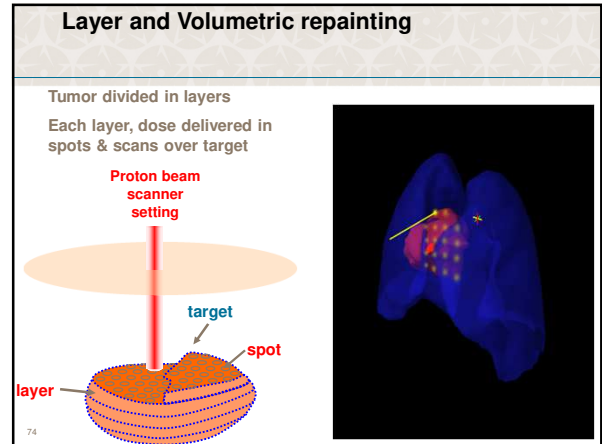
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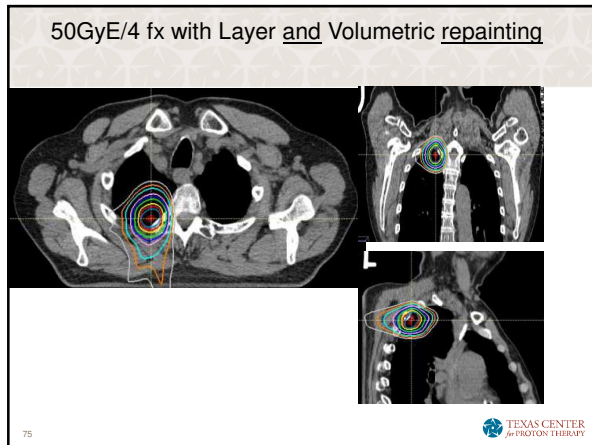
- Why do you need CBCT with protons?
- Volumetric targeting**
    - Lung tumor
    - Liver
  - Improve fine 6-degree corrections**
    - Brain
    - Skull base
    - Brain stem
  - Image and validate PROXIMAL anatomy in beam path**
    - External contour (e.g. breast)
    - Image changing anatomy (HN, pleural effusion)
- 72



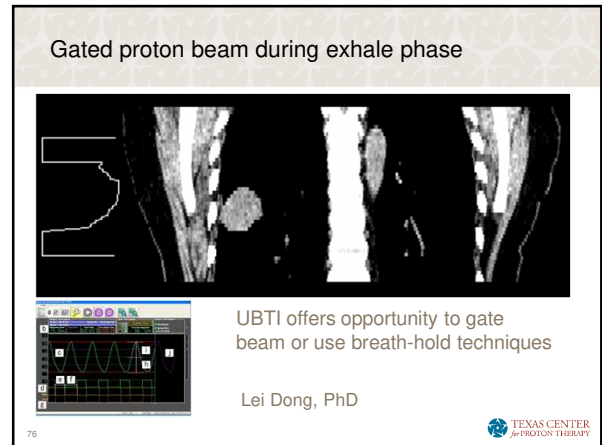
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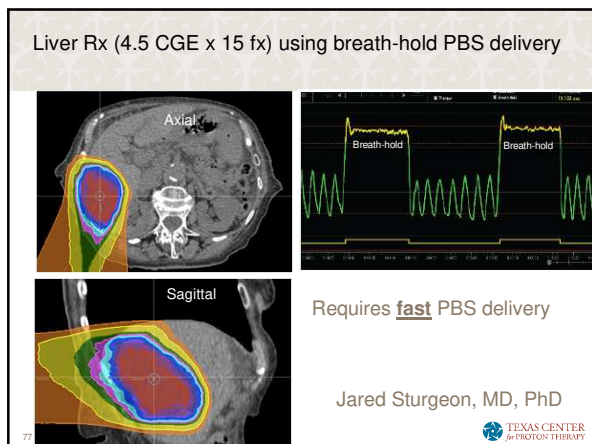
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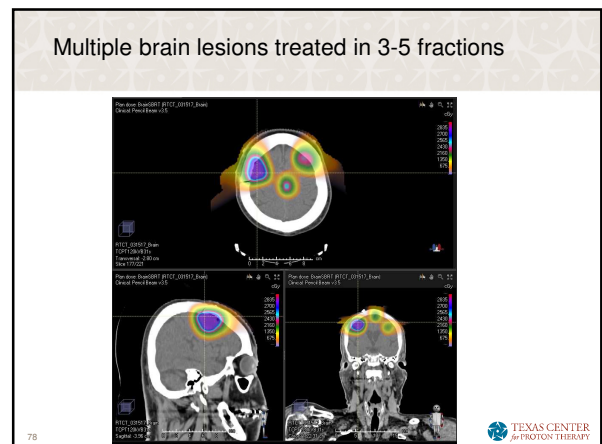
75



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### SBRT and Hypo-fractionation

As clinical indications\* for this type of Rx increases with x-rays, proton therapy's role should also increase


\*Brain, Lung, Liver, Prostate, Oligo-metastatic (better systemic Rx)

When delivering relatively few fractions, the cost differential may be negligible compared to SBRT with x-rays

Spare normal tissue

Leaves more room for subsequent treatments

79




79

### Preparing for more cancer SURVIVORS...

In 2013, the Institute of Medicine estimated **14 MILLION** cancer survivors in U.S.  
ABOUT 60% OVER AGE 65

Within the next 10 years, estimated cancer survivors are expected to **exceed 20 MILLION**

80



80



### Second Cancers Are on the Rise; 1 in 5 US Cases Is a Repeat

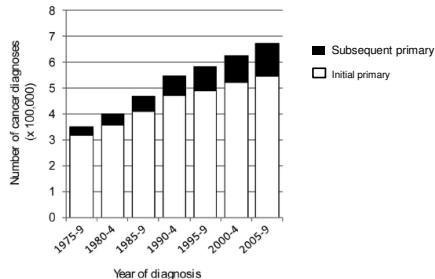
Aug 24, 2015 By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
AP Chief Medical Writer

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### First and subsequent primary cancers in adults 1975-2009 in nine SEER registries



Year of diagnosis	Initial primary	Subsequent primary	Total
1975-9	3.2	0.3	3.5
1980-4	3.8	0.4	4.2
1985-9	4.2	0.6	4.8
1990-4	4.8	0.8	5.6
1995-9	5.2	1.0	6.2
2000-4	5.8	1.2	7.0
2005-9	6.2	1.4	7.6

82



82

### Texas Center For Proton Therapy

2 full gantries and 1 fixed beam line that can deliver pencil-beam scanning proton therapy (largest pencil beam scanning proton center in region)

Only center in Texas with dedicated on-board CBCT volumetric imaging for protons

3-Tesla MRI

Advanced PET-CT imaging


Laboratory services

Anesthesia

Staff with cumulative **70+** years of dedicated proton experience

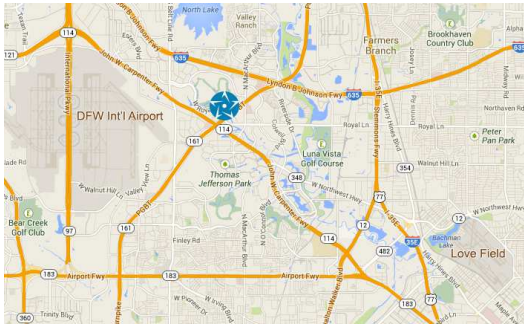
Patient-focused

83




83

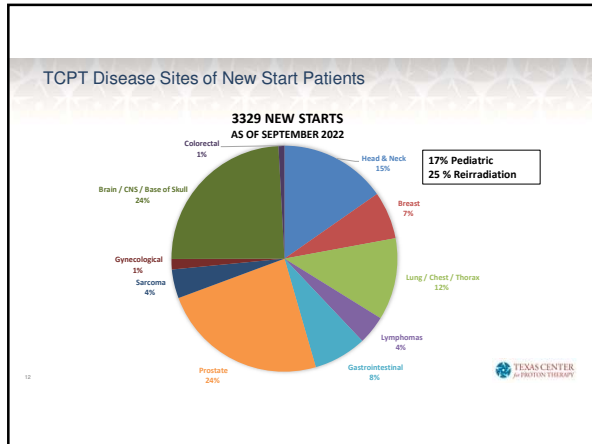
### Texas Center for Proton Therapy Location



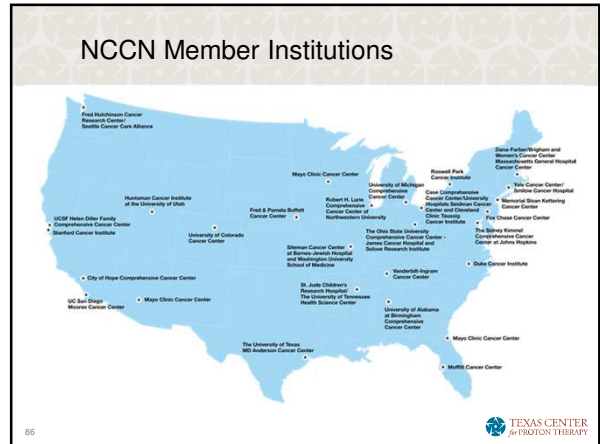
84



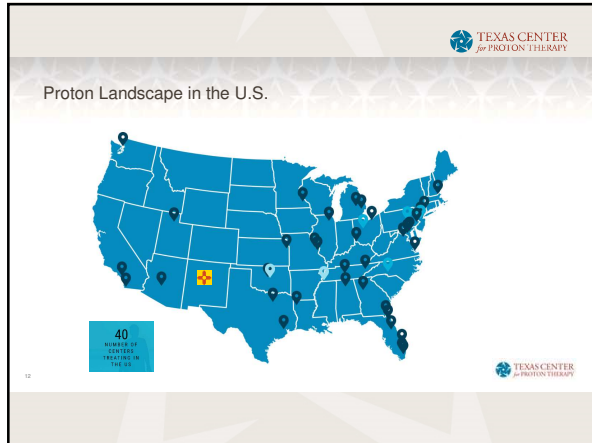
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## THANK YOU

Andrew.Lee@USOncology.com  
TexasCenterForProtonTherapy.com

TEXAS CENTER for PROTON THERAPY

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