

# iMRI

## RPCI's newest weapon against brain tumors

Patients with brain tumors now have an added advantage at Roswell Park: an intraoperative MRI (iMRI) system—the first of its kind in Western New York. The PoleStar N20 Navigation Suite is just the latest addition to Roswell Park's \$8 million package of sophisticated tools for treating patients with brain, pituitary and spine tumors. The new capability makes Roswell Park the only cancer treatment center in Western New York—and one of only a handful in North America—to offer the full complement of iMRI, stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) and Gamma Knife radiosurgery.

**Why is iMRI important?** In the past, neurosurgeons had to rely on images captured prior to surgery to locate the tumor and distinguish between the tumor and healthy tissue, which often look alike to the naked eye. But those images are no longer accurate after surgery begins, because the brain shifts when the skull is opened.

Installed in the operating room, PoleStar makes it possible to produce updated, “real-time” images of the brain while surgery is underway. This means treatment is more effective, because the tumor is removed more completely. At the same time, the PoleStar scanner can be moved easily within the operating room, and can be stored safely so that the room can also be used for other types of surgery.



Roswell Park also offers SBRT, which delivers radiation with pinpoint precision through image-guided technology. This technique makes it

initiated with help from donor funding.

Robert Fenstermaker, MD, Chair of Neurosurgery, notes that the

### **PoleStar makes it possible to produce updated, “real-time” images of the brain while surgery is underway**

possible to treat tumors of the spine and head in a very precise fashion using high-dose radiation that can be more effective and faster than standard radiation methods.

A third procedure, Gamma Knife radiosurgery, enables physicians to treat many inoperable brain tumors and certain brain disorders with single-dose radiation in one treatment session. Physicians at RPCI have treated more than 1,600 patients with Gamma Knife since 1998, when the program was first

combination of iMRI, SBRT and Gamma Knife technology “means that patients receive the highest quality of care with the most sophisticated equipment available. That translates into better patient outcomes and the emergence of a new standard of care for brain tumor patients.”

**For more information,  
call 1-877-ASK-RPCI  
(1-877-275-7724).**