



Background

The University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute opened August 14, 2006, in Jacksonville, Fla. The Institute is an integral part of the UF Health Cancer Center, one of a select group of prestigious cancer programs across the country to be designated an NCI Cancer Center. The Institute uses the most advanced technology available to treat and cure cancer. Proton therapy delivers precise radiation treatment while destroying cancer cells and minimizing damage to healthy tissues. That reduces side effects and lessens the risk of developing complications from treatment later in life and secondary cancers. It is especially beneficial for treating cancer in children and adults with cancers in sensitive areas like the head, neck, lung, brain and prostate.

The UF Health Proton Therapy Institute was the first proton therapy center in the southeast United States, the fifth in the nation, and today is one of 46 nationwide. The UF Health Proton Therapy Institute is affiliated with the UF College of Medicine, a national leader in cancer treatment and research. A team of radiation oncologists, physicists, engineers and computer scientists, all faculty members at UF, deliver state-of-the-art cancer treatment and strive to set new standards for treating and curing the disease.

The 108,000-square-foot radiation medical facility houses both conventional radiation and proton therapy. Patients receive proton therapy in one of five state-of-treatment rooms, equipped with the latest technology in proton therapy radiation including pencil beam scanning. Each gantry is three-stories tall, weighs 200,000 pounds, is powered by two 1.5 horsepower motors, and rotates around the patient bed permitting proton therapy to be directed from any angle. The fixed beam treatment room delivers protons with a stationary device and can be used for patients with eye disorders. The facility also contains clinics for patient evaluations, treatment simulation and planning suites, an interactive children's room, a resting room, an infusion and anesthesia suite, social services, research space and faculty offices. At capacity, the facility can treat up to 150 patients a day. For more information, visit

www.floridaproton.org. Updated March 2025

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