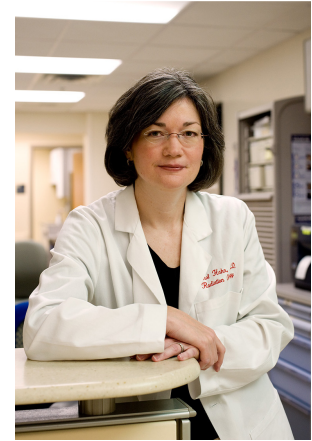


Radiation Oncology at Duke Raleigh Hospital

Carol A. Hahn, MD

Radiation oncology services at Duke Raleigh Hospital have demonstrated steady growth in the last year with increasing numbers and complexity of treatments delivered. We are working closely with Duke University Health System on plans for further expanding services and technologies available to our patients treated in Wake County.

Duke Raleigh continues to be the only center in Wake County to offer multi-disciplinary subspecialty clinics. The thoracic oncology multidisciplinary clinic is held in the Duke Raleigh Radiation Oncology clinic and is a combined effort of Duke Radiation Oncology, staffed by Dr. Carol Hahn, along with Duke Thoracic Surgery and Duke Medical Oncology. This clinic is held every Friday and is coordinated by Patient Navigator Brenda Wilcox, RN. Patients seen in the Thoracic Multidisciplinary Clinic are evaluated by three subspecialty physicians in the same clinic to determine optimal therapy and assess for eligibility for therapy on Duke clinical trials. Imaging slots are held in Duke Raleigh diagnostic radiology specifically for the multi-disciplinary clinic patients to expedite their evaluation and initiation of therapies.



Carol Hahn, MD

Clinical trials in radiation oncology are expanding at Duke Raleigh. In cooperation with Duke Gynecologic Oncology, who now provide gynecologic oncology surgical services as well as chemotherapy infusions on site of Duke Raleigh Hospital, we are opening Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) protocols at Duke Raleigh. GOG Protocol 0249 is currently under review with the Duke Institutional Review Board, and we anticipate opening in January 2010. This protocol will be available to women with endometrial cancer following surgery and will compare a number of treatment options including chemotherapy and radiotherapy delivered with 3-d conformal radiotherapy, intensity modulated radiotherapy or intravaginal brachytherapy to define optimal therapy.

Along with the growth in patient treatment, radiation oncology has been providing our patients with the highest level of outpatient customer satisfaction at Duke Raleigh Hospital. Patient satisfaction scores of 100% on Press Ganey surveys were sustained in October 2009 with radiation oncology consistently leading outpatient patient satisfaction scores at Duke Raleigh.

Provider staffing at Duke Raleigh Radiation Oncology continues to increase to ensure providing the highest quality, Duke level of care to our patients, expand services and provide the high level of customer service our patients have come to expect. In 2009, Duke nurse practitioner staff was added on a part-time basis to provide additional resources for patients in terms of follow up care for our cancer survivors and to assist physician staff in the care of patients on treatment as well as expedite new patient assessment. At the close of 2009, a full time nurse practitioner position has been approved and is actively being recruited to provide additional services and staffing at Duke Raleigh. We are additionally pleased to announce that Dr. Catherine Lee Chang will be joining Dr. Carol Hahn in staffing radiation oncology as the newest member of the Duke University Medical Center Department of Radiation Oncology physician faculty effective April 1, 2010.

Overall Duke Radiation Oncology has grown in volume, services, clinical trials, satisfaction and staffing, and we anticipate continued growth in 2010. As active and full participants in the Duke University Medical Center Department of Radiation Oncology, we continue to work closely with both Duke Raleigh administration as well as Duke Oncology leadership to further the growth of Duke cancer care in Wake County.