

## ► Two Cancer Cultures Meld for Top-Level Care in South Jersey

The partnering of Virtua's experienced clinicians with Penn Medicine's cancer program has created a new landscape and set of options for patients in South Jersey. Since the partnership was formed in 2015, the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program has extended top-level clinical expertise and advanced therapies to patients right here in the community, close to home.

"The way the two programs have complemented one another has been exceptional," said Seth Berk, MD, clinical director of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program. "The blend of Virtua doctors and Penn doctors based at Virtua locations has created highly collaborative care and a full range of diagnostic and treatment options, with a team approach in each case."

### Enhancements Across All Primary Cancer Areas

Through its cancer partnership, Virtua has placed special emphasis on advancing care in key areas:

- **Breast cancer** — Surgeons at Virtua's American College of Surgeons-accredited breast cancer center use such advances as margin probes and cancer-cell-localizer technology. Penn microvascular plastic surgeons provide advanced reconstruction procedures at Virtua.
- **Lung** — Interventional pulmonology and improved approaches to thoracic surgery are delivering less-invasive care and better outcomes in this robust lung program, also featuring robot-assisted bronchoscopy and robotic surgery.
- **Gastrointestinal cancers, including colon and liver** — Interventional procedures have expanded treatment choices in a program that also has the most experience in robot-assisted colorectal surgery in the area.

**"The way the Penn and Virtua programs have complemented one another has been exceptional." — Seth Berk, MD**

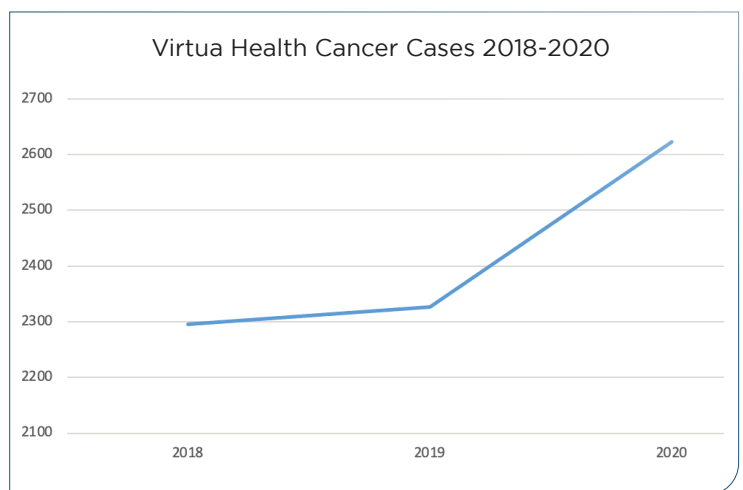
- **Gynecologic surgery** — Gynecologic cancer treatment includes robot-assisted surgery and high-dose-rate brachytherapy, with patients supported by urogynecologic expertise in pelvic rehabilitation and sexual function.

### Expanded Alternatives in Prompt, Informed Care

Other important aspects of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Cancer Program include HDR brachytherapy for brain and skin cancers, implementation in 2021 of advanced tracking of metastatic disease, and stereotactic radiosurgery that can deliver full treatment in one visit.

With locations in Moorestown, Voorhees, and Sewell, the combined program emphasizes use of a dedicated oncology nurse navigator, and a policy of offering consultation with a cancer surgeon within 48 hours of a positive diagnosis or highly suspicious finding.

Patients in the combined cancer program have expanded recourse to breakthrough chemotherapy, as well as genomic evaluation (including for colon, breast, ovarian, uterine, and pancreatic cancer) and application of biological therapy (monoclonal antibodies, cancer vaccines, and nonspecific immunotherapies) and other forms for targeted cancer care. They also have greater access to national clinical trials.



Source: Virtua Health Cancer Registry

Virtua continues to become an increasingly important and preferred source for cancer care, with volumes increasing even during the national downturn in cancer care during COVID.

To reach Virtua-Penn cancer services, call 856-247-7370.



Penn Medicine



Virtua  
Health

CANCER PROGRAM



303 Lippincott Drive  
Marlton, NJ 08053

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #1775  
BELLMAWR  
NJ 08031

## Proton Therapy Arrives in South Jersey in 2022

Virtua Health brings another first in cancer treatment to South Jersey residents, as it is proud to announce the construction of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center on the Virtua Voorhees campus. This advanced form of radiation therapy offers patients new potential for recovery and survival, as well as improved quality of life.

A painless, noninvasive treatment, proton therapy uses a beam of high-energy protons to destroy cancer cells. Radiation oncologists can finely control the beam, so that it exactly targets a cancer location without additional concentration or penetration, preventing radiation from affecting healthy tissue and surrounding organs.

“Proton therapy is one of the most advanced forms of radiation, designed to target tumors in hard-to-reach places near critical organs or treated tumors that have recurred,” said radiation oncologist Catherine Kim, MD, Virtua medical director and Penn Medicine Regional Network medical director for radiation oncology.

Cancer types that may be treated with proton therapy include: brain, spine, breast, gastrointestinal (anal, colon, esophageal, liver, pancreatic, rectal), gynecologic (cervical), kidney, lung, lymphoma, mesothelioma, oropharyngeal, and prostate.

“The boundaries for this therapy continue to expand, particularly for patients with difficult-to-access tumors,” explained radiation oncologist Benjamin Goldsmith, MD, Penn Medicine’s vice chair of network operations for radiation oncology. “Cost limitations have continued to fall away, with Medicare now covering the treatment.”

As the first such facility in Virtua’s service area, and the only such center south of New Brunswick, the new center will offer this leading-edge therapy to patients from Central and South Jersey.

“Penn has built an international reputation for excellence in cancer treatment and has trained more than 70% of the clinicians using proton therapy around the world,” said James Metz, MD, chair of radiation oncology at Penn Medicine. “We’re very excited for the opportunity to share this expertise with our colleagues at Virtua.”

**See a video of the arrival of center’s cyclotron, including discussion of benefits and best patient candidates for proton therapy, at [www.virtua.org/PennProton](http://www.virtua.org/PennProton).**



The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center will open in fall 2022.