



Penn Medicine



Virtua  
Health

PROTON THERAPY CENTER



## What is **Proton Therapy**?

Proton therapy is the most advanced form of radiation therapy for treating specific types of cancer, allowing for more conformed, and potentially higher, radiation doses to be delivered to cancerous tumors.

It uses high-energy radiation beams with pencil-point accuracy to target and destroy cancer cells – both near the surface and deep within the body – offering an opportunity to treat the tumor and potentially minimize damage to surrounding tissues and organs.



## What types of patients benefit from proton therapy?

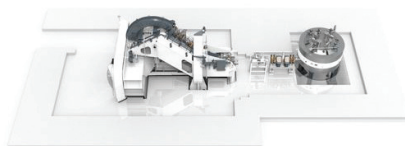
Proton therapy can be especially beneficial for patients who:

- Have tumors that are near healthy tissue and close to highly sensitive and critical organs, like the brain, spinal cord, heart, lungs, or bowel
- Have cancerous tumors that are difficult and hard-to-reach with conventional high-quality radiation treatment plans
- Are undergoing combined treatments of chemotherapy and radiation
- Have had prior radiation therapy to an area where cancer has developed or recurred
- Have cancers that cannot be completely removed by surgery
- Have tumors resistant to chemotherapy and conventionally require a high dose of radiation for tumor control



## Which types of cancer should be considered for proton therapy?

- Brain cancer and spinal tumors
- Breast cancer
- Gastrointestinal (GI) cancer
- Gynecologic cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Lung cancer & thoracic tumors
- Lymphoma
- Prostate & genitourinary cancers
- Sarcomas



## ➤ The clinical benefits of proton therapy may include:

- Possibility of fewer, milder side effects – potential for smaller side effect profile during and/or after treatment, depending on the areas that need to be treated
- Less damage to healthy tissue – reducing radiation dose to healthy, surrounding tissues by 50 to 70 percent.
- Possibility for higher radiation dose – for some cancers higher dose may improve control rates
- Ability to treat cancer in critical areas – precision makes it an excellent option for tumors near critical organs and areas sensitive to radiation if highly-targeted x-ray radiation cannot sufficiently spare them
- Ability to treat some recurrent cancers

## ➤ Why choose the **Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center?**

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center is the only proton therapy center in South Jersey and is part of the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program, which offers the strength of two renowned health care leaders and the most advanced diagnostic and treatment options in South Jersey.

### **Internationally-recognized cancer expertise**

Penn Medicine is a pioneer in the field of proton therapy, starting with the 2010 opening of Roberts Proton Therapy Center in Philadelphia, the largest, most advanced facility of its kind in the world. Penn has gained an international reputation by training more than 70% of the clinicians using proton therapy around the world. Their decade-plus of experience treating over 8,000 patients with proton therapy will be used to develop treatment plans for patients in South Jersey seeking this advanced care close to home.

### **Comprehensive, personalized cancer care in South Jersey**

Penn Medicine and Virtua Health began a strategic alliance in 2015, providing patients with care from a cross-disciplinary team of medical, radiation and surgical oncologists, as well as microvascular reconstructive surgeons, supported with a unique model of 1:1 nurse navigation for every patient.

### **Fully integrated proton and photon facility**

The Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Cancer Program consists of fully-integrated cancer teams and treatments within the Radiation Oncology department at Virtua Voorhees, allowing physicians the potential to develop combined therapies if needed. In combination with high-dose rate brachytherapy and ability to deliver stereotactic treatments, patients will have access to all radiation modalities at one clinical site.

### **1:1 Nurse Navigation**

Once patients are scheduled for a consultation, our Nurse Navigators assist with all of the details of the treatment and their day-to-day needs, ensuring a positive and seamless patient experience.

**Conveniently located adjacent to the Virtua Voorhees campus** provides easy access for patients across southern and central New Jersey.

To learn more or refer a patient to the Penn Medicine | Virtua Health Proton Therapy Center for a consultation, contact our Proton Coordinator at **856-247-7334** or visit us online at [virtua.org/pennproton](http://virtua.org/pennproton).

We work closely with referring physicians to help coordinate your patient's health care needs, keeping you connected to your patient's treatment at every point of their cancer care.

Insurance specialists are also available to provide guidance and advocacy for all patients regarding coverage for their treatment plans.



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