

What is Stereotactic Radiosurgery?

Stereotactic Radiosurgery is a special type of radiation treatment. This very accurate radiation treats abnormalities of the brain.

There are two types of Stereotactic Radiosurgery. The first kind is a single dose of radiation delivered in one day. Fractionated Stereotactic Radiosurgery delivers smaller, doses of radiation over a period of time. The location, type and size of your tumor will determine which treatment you need.

You will receive your care from the Radiosurgery team. They are a group of specially trained doctors, physicists, nurses and therapists. The team decides the best treatment for you. They work with you to plan your treatment and schedule your appointments.



Getting Started

In order to develop your treatment plan, you will need to have a CT scan. These images are sent to the planning unit where the computerized planning process begins. When the provider and the physicists are satisfied with the plan, you will receive treatment.

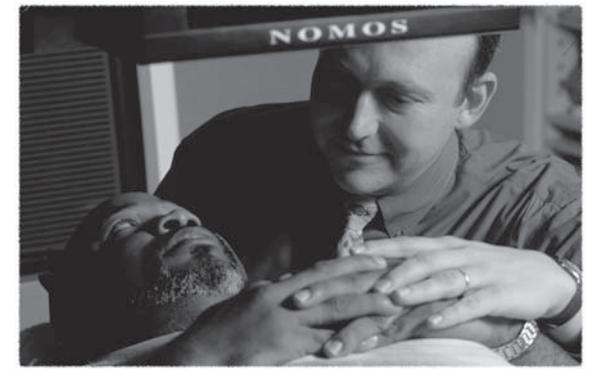
You will need to sign an informed consent form before you begin treatment. Side effects from the treatment will be discussed with you and you will be given the chance to ask questions. The actual treatment is painless but some people are uncomfortable lying on the treatment table. Pain medication and sedatives are available if you need it. You can have music therapy during your treatment. If you are interested, ask to meet with a music therapist before your first treatment.

Before Treatment Begins

Radiosurgery is a very specific type of radiation. It is important that you undergo a few tests to properly locate the area to be treated. For this, you will need to have an MRI.

You need to hold completely still during your Radiosurgical treatment. This is often difficult for many patients. In order to help you hold still, you will need to have some minor surgery performed by a neurosurgeon. The surgeon will place small screws in your skull bone. You will be sedated for this procedure. Some patients are admitted to the hospital for this procedure. You may experience some discomfort from the screws. You will be prescribed pain medication, anti-seizure medicine and medication to prevent swelling of the brain.

Once the screws are in place, they can be worn without further discomfort up to two months. At the end of the treatment, the screws will be removed in the operating room.



After Treatment

Your provider or nurse will discuss your follow-up care. A CT or MRI scan will usually be needed to assess your response to treatment. The scan may be done one to three months after treatment.

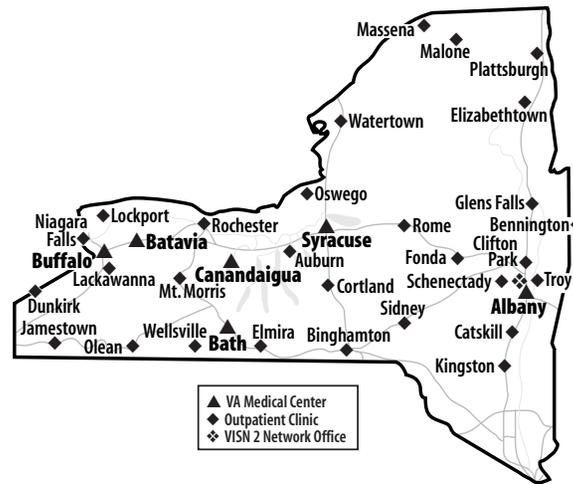
You will receive instructions about the care of the small scalp incisions after the screws are removed. Generally, you will be asked to keep the area clean and dry. Report any signs of infection (fever, redness and the site being warm) or bleeding immediately.

Contact Information

Albany VA Medical Center
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
(518) 626-6650



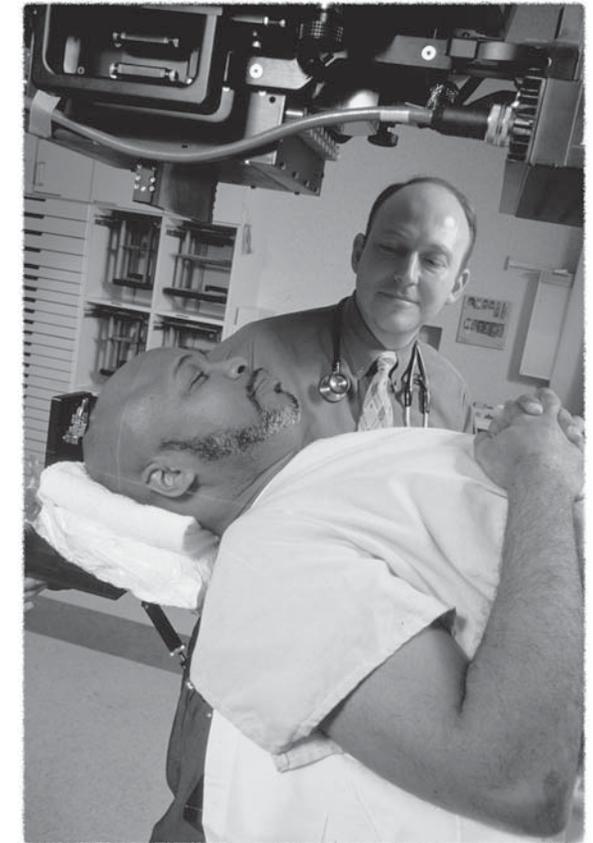
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