

The Power of Hope

NOVALIS® SHAPED BEAM SURGERY™ REVOLUTIONIZES
CANCER TREATMENT AT SOUTHEAST MISSOURI HOSPITAL

By Sally Owen

Like the pet mules that reside in the pasture at Francis Long's country home, Long is stubborn. He doesn't give up. Over the past two years, he has undergone a nine-hour operation to remove a cancerous tumor from his brain, followed by a rigorous course of chemotherapy and

whole-brain radiation therapy. He later underwent treatment for lung cancer. Recently, a new brain tumor was found. Another battle lay ahead. "All I could think about was that I didn't really want to go back under the knife," he says. Thankfully, Long didn't have to face another traditional surgery. In July, he became

the first patient to be treated at Southeast Missouri Hospital's new Novalis® Shaped Beam Surgery™ Center.

Southeast Missouri Hospital is the first hospital in Missouri to open a Novalis Center, and just one of 50 medical centers worldwide—and one of fewer than three dozen in North America—to offer this revolutionary treatment for cancer. Novalis can be used to treat patients with benign and malignant brain

tumors, as well as other tumors, including prostate cancer and cancers of the head and neck.

Since 1967, when Southeast introduced radiation therapy to the region, the hospital's leadership has continuously worked to bring leading-edge technology to the region. "With Novalis, cancer patients now have access to the best and most precise technology available today," says Southeast President and CEO James W. Wentz, CHE, CPA.

Long's procedure, done on an outpatient basis with no incision, no scalpel and no general anesthesia, went very smoothly, says Scott R. Gibbs, M.D., Long's neurosurgeon.

Following his Novalis treatment, Long donned his baseball cap and left the Regional Cancer Center to enjoy lunch with his family.

"Mr. Long could not have undergone further traditional radiation therapy," Gibbs explains. Long's only option was another, more risky, brain operation. A newly discovered

second tumor, deep within his brain, was inoperable. "Through Novalis, Mr. Long and his family realized the power of hope. Their eyes brightened when they learned of the option of Shaped Beam Surgery," Gibbs says.

Exquisite Accuracy

Unlike other institutions that adapt existing equipment to perform stereotactic radiosurgery, Southeast chose to make a \$3 million commitment to bring the "gold standard" of stereotactic radiosurgery to Cape Girardeau and the Midwest. "We have a state-of-the-art linear accelerator that we could have



Francis and Ruby Long enjoy a quiet moment on the porch of their home near Burfordville, Mo. For her husband, Mrs. Long says, "Novalis® Shaped Beam Surgery" was like a dream come true.

"Novalis is a blessing! To think that there are so few in the world, and Southeast Missouri Hospital has one. That's so wonderful for so many cancer patients." —Ruby Long

Learn More about Shaped Beam Surgery

At the core of the Novalis® Shaped Beam Surgery™ system is a beam-shaping device that allows Novalis to accurately and precisely isolate the contour of the tumor from every angle. Radiation treatment delivered with the highest precision and accuracy is called "Shaped Beam Surgery." Novalis presents an excellent alternative treatment option for patients who cannot undergo traditional surgery because of another illness, because tumors are located in inoperable areas, or because of the increased risk of harming critical structures near the tumor.



Southeast
MISSOURI
Hospital
Regional Cancer Center

For more information about
Novalis® Shaped Beam Surgery™
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