

CASE STUDY REDUCTION IN TREATMENT TIME & INCREASED THROUGHPUT

50% Block Time Reduction
10% Increase in Patient Volume



OVERVIEW:

Institution Type: Community based cancer center
Location: Alpharetta, GA
Opened: 2012
SGRT System: AlignRT
Years with system: 5 years
Linac: Varian Truebeam
Cancer types treated: All cancer types



CHALLENGE

NHCI Alpharetta location wanted to improve its patient setup, treatment accuracy and efficiency for DIBH and frameless SRS using AlignRT instead of traditional three-point markers. Ultimately, the staff wanted to offer mark- and tattoo-free treatment to patients while having the confidence that it delivered the same efficacy as skin markers.

1

SAFETY

Accurate, real-time monitoring of intrafraction motion for DIBH, SBRT, SRT and other procedures.

2

PATIENT SATISFACTION

Elimination of tattoos and marks to lower patient anxiety, in order for patient to focus on rest and healing.

3

EFFICIENCY

Improve setup times and reproducibility, especially for difficult anatomies, with less radiographic imaging.



SOLUTION

NHCI took full advantage of the training made available to them from Vision RT and the SGRT Community, a peer-to-peer learning forum with +13,000 members.

1

DATA COLLECTION & VERIFICATION

- Conducted a 3-month data/trial period and collected data on all patients, comparing treatment with and without marks / tattoos.
- Analysis indicated that they were able to achieve the same, if not better, treatment accuracy and precision via markless patient setup with SGRT.

2

TRAINING PROGRAM

- 3-Phase training empowered staff to integrate AlignRT's many applications with minimal disruption.
- Attended the SGRT Community Annual Meetings, Vision RT Symposia, and SGRT Live Interactive Webinars conducted by Vision RT.

"I love the fact that if an immobilization device malfunctions, then the therapist can use the information stored in the AlignRT system to create a new one rather than have the patient re-scanned and re-planned."

Nancy Wiggers, M.D.
Radiation Oncologist, Department Chair

RESULTS

1. Patient treatment block times were reduced consistently by 50% (20 to 10 minutes for typical treatments) due to less repeat imaging and more accurate initial setup with AlignRT.
2. Mark / tattoo-free treatment and setup times with AlignRT produced an average reduction of in-room time by 14% compared to setup with skin marks and tattoos.
3. Initial setup/verification appointment times were also reduced by as much as 50%.
4. Breast patient volume and overall patient volume grew 10% after successful implementation of mark / tattoo-free treatment technique.

2017

119

2018

131



50%
DECREASE IN PATIENT BLOCK TIME



10%
INCREASE IN
PATIENT VOLUME

+100

patients saw NHCI on
AlignRTedu.com
"find a treatment
center" local map
in 2020

FUTURE PLAN

To prepare for the upcoming Radiation Oncology (RO) Model, NHCI's goal for their 7 locations is to continue to expand the implementation of hypofractionation with AlignRT to deliver accurate radiation therapy and safely increase throughput. NHCI also plans to continue to use Vision RT's Patient Education Toolkit to drive awareness for patients and referring providers. In addition, they will highlight their radiation oncologist and award-winning cancer institute on SaferRadiationTherapy.com to drive patients to their center.



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