Cancer Patients in Bangladesh Gain Access to Advanced RapidArc Radiotherapy Treatments from Varian Medical Systems

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DHAKA, Bangladesh, Feb. 7, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Cancer patients in Bangladesh, a country of 160 million people served by just 11 modern radiotherapy linear accelerators, now have access to advanced radiotherapy technology from Varian Medical Systems (NYSE: VAR). Treatments using fast and efficient RapidArc® technology with respiratory gating have started on a new Clinac® iX medical linear accelerator at the new United Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre in the capital, Dhaka.

"As well as offering great precision and excellent dose distribution, RapidArc enables us to deliver the dose more quickly," says Dr. Ayan Basu, M.D., head of radiation oncology at United Hospital, which is Bangledesh's first comprehensive cancer center. "This is a country with long waiting lists for treatment, so RapidArc will help us to treat many patients with advanced radiotherapy techniques. We are delighted to be the first hospital in the country to provide RapidArc for the benefit of our patients."

Doctors at United Hospital have begun delivering RapidArc on prostate and head/neck cancer patients. The advanced RapidArc system delivers precise image-guided IMRT (intensity modulated radiotherapy) up to four times faster than conventional IMRT. The RapidArc IMRT beam quickly delivers the dose while continuously rotating around the patient. Studies* show that faster treatments allow for greater precision, since there is less chance of patient or tumor movement during treatment delivery and, with less time on the treatment couch, also allow for greater patient comfort.

Dr. Basu said RapidArc is being used initially to treat cancers such as prostate, cervical and anal canal, and will also be used for stereotactic body radiotherapy treatments, which involve the use of very high-dose beams to quickly attack certain types of tumors in areas like the lung, liver, or spine.

The RapidArc-equipped Clinac device, ordered in June and i
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SOURCE [1]

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