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Oncology



Oncology

St Stephen Health Care in Paarl, Western Cape, opened in November 2014. We have dedicated Oncologists who will provide you with the best possible personalised treatment. The Centre is supported by a Sub-Acute hospital with 22 beds offering support for oncology care, palliative care, rehabilitation for stroke survivors and patients who need care after surgery. Our multidisciplinary teams ensure compassionate care and comfort for both patients and their families.

Cancer Diagnoses

A cancer diagnosis means making life altering decisions, often in a matter of hours or days, including choices regarding what treatment options you want and who will provide it for you. Your oncologist will manage your treatment for the full duration of your treatment. This includes explaining your diagnosis, suggesting various options for treatment, delivering your care plan and helping you cope with treatment and possible side effects.

Making all these choices can be overwhelming and that is why our multi-disciplinary team are here to support you. We have specific skills with access to the latest technology and our emphases are on individualistic treatment focusing on the whole person in a safe and friendly environment.

Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy works by damaging cancer cells while limiting the impact to healthy tissue. It is a painless treatment (similar to having an x-ray) that is localised to the part of the body being treated. St Stephen Health Care uses External Beam Radiation Therapy (EBRT), an effective form of radiation therapy. The treatment can be delivered on its own or in combination with other forms of treatment, such as chemotherapy, hormones and surgery. It is commonly undertaken as an outpatient service. Treatment is usually given in daily intervals (Monday to Friday) over several weeks, allowing enough radiation to target cancer cells while providing healthy cells enough time to recuperate.

St Stephen uses the most current Unique TM performance linear accelerator from the internationally acclaimed company, Varian. Over the last 30 years advances in cancer care, using radiation treatments, have made it possible to treat many types of cancer with advanced precision, imaging and speed. Varian Oncology Systems is, and always has been at the forefront of this progress. The high precision and power possible with Varian has helped evolve radiotherapy and expand patient treatment options to provide more paths to treatment and recovery.



Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy differs from surgery or radiation in that it is almost always used as a systemic treatment. This means the drugs travel throughout the body to reach cancer cells wherever they are.

Treatment is administered in a comfortable and personal environment. Your treatment is carefully planned by the Oncologist who will explain the benefits of your treatment plan. Chemotherapy is usually given as several sessions with rest periods in between.

Multidisciplinary Team

At St Stephen, a strong culture of multidisciplinary care is seen as critical to improving the primary health care of our patients. Multidisciplinary care occurs when professionals from a range of disciplines with different, but complementary skills, knowledge, and experience work together to deliver comprehensive health care aimed at providing the best possible outcome for the physical and the psychosocial needs of our patients.

MEET OUR ONCOLOGISTS WHO CARE



Dr Lydia Punt



Dr Lizelle Fourie