

CyberKnife® Radiosurgery - Letter to Doctors

MHL promotes advanced treatment centres and non-invasive medical technologies. We do not examine or diagnose patients, nor do we advise on individual cases. We provide information and facilitate enquiries from patients or doctors to a choice of CyberKnife and Proton Therapy centres but all clinical decisions are made by the centres without reference to us.

Dear Doctor,

Your patient has investigated CyberKnife non-invasive radiosurgery on our website www.cyberknifeservice.com and needs your assistance in submitting preliminary information to their choice of CyberKnife Centre(s).

Our website provides details about CyberKnife, the range of cancer, non-cancer and neurosurgical interventions which are offered and how the centres assess patients for treatment. At this first stage the centres are looking just for basic information to ensure that the patient's condition falls within their general treatment parameters, some of which are common to all centres and some of which vary from centre to centre.

Many do not respond to enquiries from international patients but we have secured access to the following CyberKnife Centres, which will respond to enquiries through our centralised service, provided adequate information is provided.

European CyberKnife Centre, Munich, Germany

International direct patient enquiries restricted to cancer: brain, spine and lung (non-small cell) tumours; non-cancer: AVMs, trigeminal neuralgia, acoustic neuroma. From doctors only: uveal melanoma* and certain liver, kidney, pancreas and prostate cases, in which case please submit letter with on-line form.

* Munich pioneered this treatment, which can avoid the need for enucleation.

Radiotherapie Hirslanden, Zurich, Switzerland

Brain, spine, prostate, lung (non-small cell), liver and pancreas tumours, AVMs, trigeminal neuralgia, acoustic neuroma. Note: the CyberKnife is based at the Hirslanden Group's flagship hospital Klinik Hirslanden which also offers Trilogy® radiotherapy, brachytherapy, chemotherapy and da Vinci® robotic surgery.

Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon, France

Brain, spine, lung (non-small cell), liver and pancreas tumours, AVMs, trigeminal neuralgia, acoustic neuroma. Centre Léon Bérard is a private, non-profit cancer hospital with Synergy® radiotherapy and one of the largest brachytherapy units in France. It treats over 2,500 patients by radiation therapies and 3,000 by surgery every year. Other treatments include intraperitoneal thermal surgery, liver and lung cryosurgery, isolated-limb chemotherapy and sentinel node biopsy for breast cancer.

Iatropolis CyberKnife Centre, Athens, Greece

Brain, spine, lung (non-small cell), prostate, liver and kidney tumours, AVMs, trigeminal neuralgia, acoustic neuroma. Iatropolis is also a specialised scanning centre with 3 Tesla MRI, 128-slice CT and extensive diagnostic facilities.

HCG (Healthcare Global), Bangalore, India

Most CyberKnife interventions for cancer and neurosurgery. HCG is South Asia's largest cancer care provider with a nationwide network of centres. HCG Bangalore also offers radiotherapy (Siemens Artis image-guided system), PET-CT scanning and the Bangalore Institute of Oncology, India's first comprehensive cancer centre.

Essential information for all centres includes:

Statement of condition to be treated

Number, size and location of tumours (cancer patients). Note: some centres impose restrictions on maximum tumour size or number which may be submitted for review.

Details of recent scans in digital format which may be called for.

Enquiry process

Initial enquiry is by completing the Online Enquiry Form on our website. This can be found at: www.cyberknifeservice.com/ckenquiry.html You can also download our **CyberKnife Guide** and **Letter to Insurers** using the link on the Enquiry Form.

Provided we have the minimum information required by each chosen centre the enquiry will be submitted for review and the Centre(s) will respond within a few days. Further communication is direct between the Centre(s) and either the patient or yourself, as selected on the form.

If the centre(s) feels that the case may be suitable they will call for scans and whatever further information they require. Scans may be sent on a CD or uploaded directly by internet to the treatment centre, but they should not be sent to us. Where a case is fully accepted for treatment this is usually available within a few days.

As well as standard CyberKnife treatments some centres are now developing their own or shared protocols which extend treatment into new areas, so centres are becoming increasingly specialised. We are also adding new centres to our centralised enquiry service, so please check our website www.cyberknifeservice.com regularly for updated details.

European patients

CyberKnife radiosurgery is most suitable for small, discrete, well-defined tumours so delay can be critical and may place patients beyond treatment. In principle CyberKnife patients are eligible for E112 funding from their governments, subject to individual case review, and this has been successful in the past. Experience has shown however that due to lengthy bureaucratic procedures for each such patient, payment often comes late. In practice therefore most centres are increasingly reluctant to accept patients who require E112 funding unless they are assured of prompt settlement.

Thank you for helping your patient apply for assessment, or alternatively the patient may request you to take over the application process yourself. Either way we will ensure that the enquiry is handled promptly.

Please do not send scans or medical records to us. If you have general enquiries regarding CyberKnife or about our services you will find most answers at www.cyberknifeservice.com For further information or to subscribe to our newsletter please e-mail enquiries@cyberknifeservice.com

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Stacey

Managing Director, Medilux Healthcare Ltd.