



PROVIDED BY JOHNSTON HEALTH

Smithfield-based Johnston Health, part of Chapel Hill-based UNC Health Care, is using technology to improve cancer care. It's a statewide trend.

Modern medicine

North Carolina health care providers are leading oncology treatment advances.

Women battling breast cancer need to also care for their hearts. The chemotherapy agent Adriamycin and the immunotherapy drug Herceptin prescribed to eradicate their cancer damages the hearts of 10% to 30% of patients. Cardiologists and oncologists at Greensboro-based Cone Health have teamed up to make sure it doesn't happen to their patients.

Dan Bensimhon, medical director of Cone Health's Advanced Heart Failure Clinic, was concerned that

many breast-cancer patients treated with the two drugs weren't being screened for heart-muscle damage. So he led the creation of a cardiology-oncology clinic, where patients undergo echocardiograms every three months, and doctors look for small changes in heart contractions. "If we catch the problem soon enough, we can put the chemotherapy on hold until the heart recovers, and then we can often restart the medicines and let a patient finish her chemotherapy while we protect her heart."



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Women's Choice Award: America's 100 Best Hospitals for Patient Experience

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Blue Distinction Center+ for Cardiac Care

US News and World Report High Performing Hospital

Business North Carolina Top Five Hospital

Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award

Healthgrades America's 50 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery

CareChex Top 10% in the Nation for Cancer Patient Safety

Women's Choice Award: America's Best Hospitals for Heart Care

Carechex Top 100 Hospitals in the Nation for Interventional Coronary Care Patient Safety

We thank the over 2,000 CarolinaEast employees, our physicians and volunteers for all they do to make this recognition possible. It is our people that make the quality happen for those we are privileged to serve.



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PROVIDED BY NEW HANOVER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington is doubling the size of its Zimmer Cancer Center. That will bring additional treatment capacity and consolidation of services.



PROVIDED BY VIDANT HEALTH

Greenville-based Vidant Health is building a six-story, 96-bed cancer center. It will open in 2018.

About 140 North Carolinians are diagnosed and 50 die from cancer each day, according to Raleigh-based North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control. Cone's cardiology-oncology clinic is one of several working to reduce those numbers.

Technology makes cancer treatments safer and more effective. At Greenville-based Vidant Medical Center, for example, specially trained brain surgeons wield a Leksell Gamma Knife Perfexion tool. It's one of two in the state; the other is used by surgeons at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. It uses targeted beams of radiation that create less pain, scarring and recovery time than conventional open-brain surgery

with a scalpel. The tool makes it possible to treat conditions once considered inoperable, including certain brain metastases and primary or recurrent malignant tumors. It also can treat nonmalignant brain tumors, vascular malformations and nerve conditions.

Stuart Lee of Vidant Neurosurgery performed Vidant's 1,000th Gamma Knife procedure in September 2015. That was the same month the center became the world's first hospital to use CrossCountry, a lung-biopsy device. It was developed by Dublin-based Medtronic PLC and diagnoses lung cancer early, when it's highly treatable and removable with less-invasive procedures. It's a promising alternative to traditional

bronchoscopy, which involves inserting a thin tube-shaped bronchoscope through the patient's nose or mouth to view the airway, because it reaches more difficult-to-access portions of the lung. CrossCountry creates small pathways that allow surgeons to access tumors outside the airway. In the procedure, two surgeons — Mark Bowling, director of interventional pulmonology for East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine, and Carlos Anciano, Brody's director of minimally invasive thoracic surgery — used CrossCountry to remove a small piece of a lung mass outside the patient's airway. The patient went home the same day with some good news: The mass was benign.

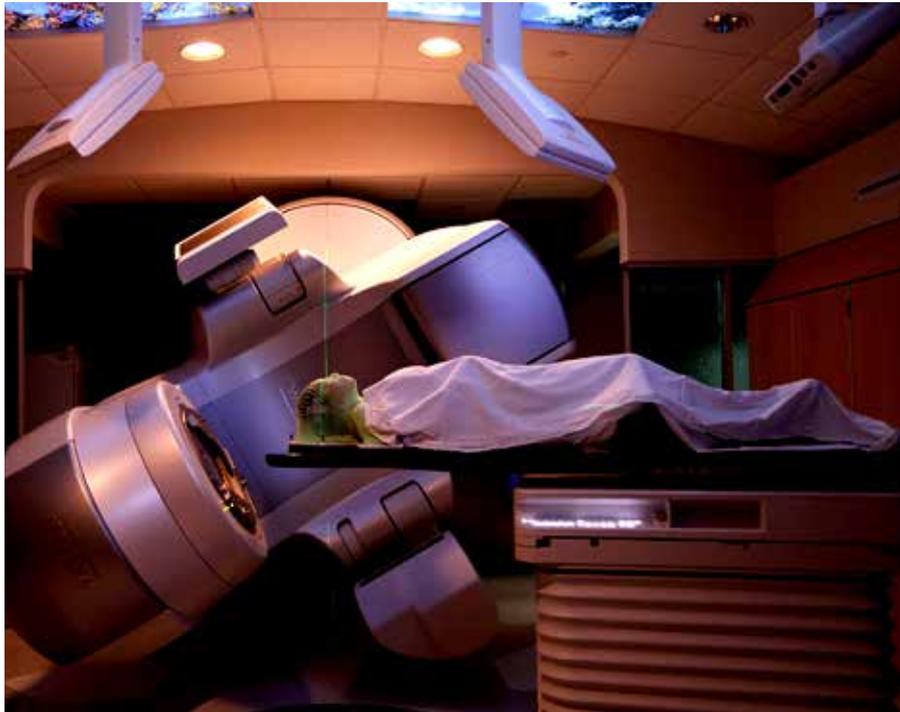


**“Cancer crashed
my wedding. And
was an uninvited guest
on my honeymoon.
Cancer stole my normal.
But the people who
treated my cancer
stole it back for me.”**

Like any new bride, Laura Kilpatrick planned her wedding to the smallest detail. What she didn't plan for was a diagnosis of cervical cancer. With an indomitable spirit and the dedicated caregivers of the Cone Health Cancer Center she not only survived, she conquered. Meet Laura and some of the people who helped her at *ExceptionalCare.com*.



Exceptional Care. Every Day.



PROVIDED BY CONE HEALTH CANCER CENTER, GREENSBORO

Cone Health radiation oncologists use the TrueBeam laser. It precisely targets treatment, reducing the impact on surrounding tissue and organs.

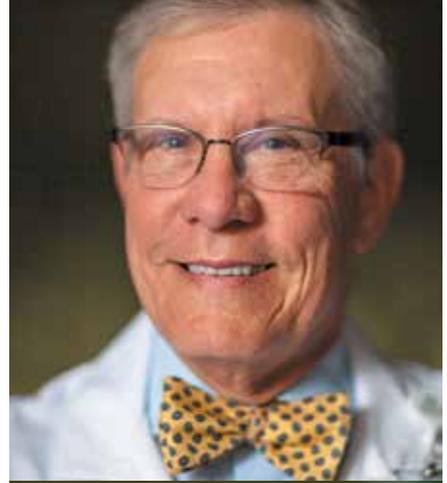
CrossCountry hasn't made bronchoscopies obsolete. It remains an important part of Vidant's thoracic oncology program. Physicians there use a super-Dimension Electronmagnet Navigation Bronchoscopy in what Bowling calls a "hybrid" operating room. It's equipped with a CT scanner, which uses multiple X-ray images to construct a cross-sectional view of a patient's lung that pinpoints the cancer lesion. Then tiny biopsy tools are used to take samples. "The use of these technologies is just part of our multidisciplinary approach to lung disease," Anciano says. "Every day, more than 400 people die of lung cancer in the United States — more than the next five cancers lumped together. Hopes are high that having all of these technologies in place will allow us to diagnose and treat this disease earlier."

In Wilmington, New Hanover Regional Medical Center is expanding and renovating its Zimmer Cancer Center. When work is finished in fall 2017, the clinic will have doubled in size to 55,000 square feet, says Henry Hawthorne,

the medical center's oncology services administrator. Some of the new space will be occupied by Cape Fear Cancer Specialists, with offices currently about a mile away. That will make it more convenient for patients who have doctor visits and chemotherapy or radiation treatments on the same day. Thirty-three chairs will be added to Zimmer's chemotherapy suite, enabling 48 patients to be treated simultaneously.

Hawthorne says the expansion and consolidation support the center's multidisciplinary approach to cancer care. It is piloting a lung-cancer treatment program that takes a coordinated approach to diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care. It involves a care team — primary care physician, oncologist, radiation oncologist and surgeon — that's assembled when the patient is referred to the center. "In this way, we can short-circuit a lot of referrals. We're creating an environment that is supportive and healing and brings together a larger team of experts to deliver the best care possible." ■

Daniel Clarke-Pearson, MD
Gynecologic Oncologist, Cone Health



Treat the now, pave the way for what's to come. This health care philosophy is embraced by Dr. Daniel Clarke-Pearson, MD, a gynecologic oncologist with the Cone Health Cancer Center. When his patient Laura Kilpatrick was diagnosed with cervical cancer, her dreams of having children were seemingly dashed. But Dr. Clarke-Pearson used an innovative surgical technique that would allow Laura to have her embryos preserved so that one day she could start a family. Learn more about the union of science and hope at

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