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New technology introduced for PMC's cancer center

POCATELLO — A technology new to the area will be in use for the Portneuf Medical Center's new Cancer Treatment Center when they open in their new building.

Image Guidance Radio Therapy, or IGRT, will be available for use while treating cancer patients with radiation. IGRT allows for radiation oncologists to continuously visualize the area of the body that is being treated.

Before, a patient would be prepped before going into the treatment area, and part of that prep would be to take CT scans, X-rays, or ultrasounds of the tumor being treated. Oncologists would then treat the patient with the

radiation based on those still images.



PMC Cancer Center and Medical Imaging Director Bruce Broswick talks about the new linear accelerator being installed in the Cancer Center's new location at the East Campus on Wednesday.

With IGRT, they are able to maneuver the radiation therapy to different positions as a tumor moves around depending on how a person is moving, or breathing. This gives them the opportunity to provide much more precise treatment than they could before.

“The new building will have many of the same capabilities as the medical office building we’ve been using,” Brenda Stanley, director of marketing and public affairs said. “The building itself though, is much bigger, nicer, and newer. Therefore it will be more comfortable for our patients as well.”

The Medical Oncology department will be similar in treatment according to Bruce Broswick, Cancer Center director for PMC.

“We already have the linear accelerator for Medical Oncology, and so that will remain the same,” Broswick said. “We are excited to be able to start utilizing the IGRT though.”

The hospital will begin moving their cancer treatment center into the new building around July 15, and intend to be fully moved by the end of August.