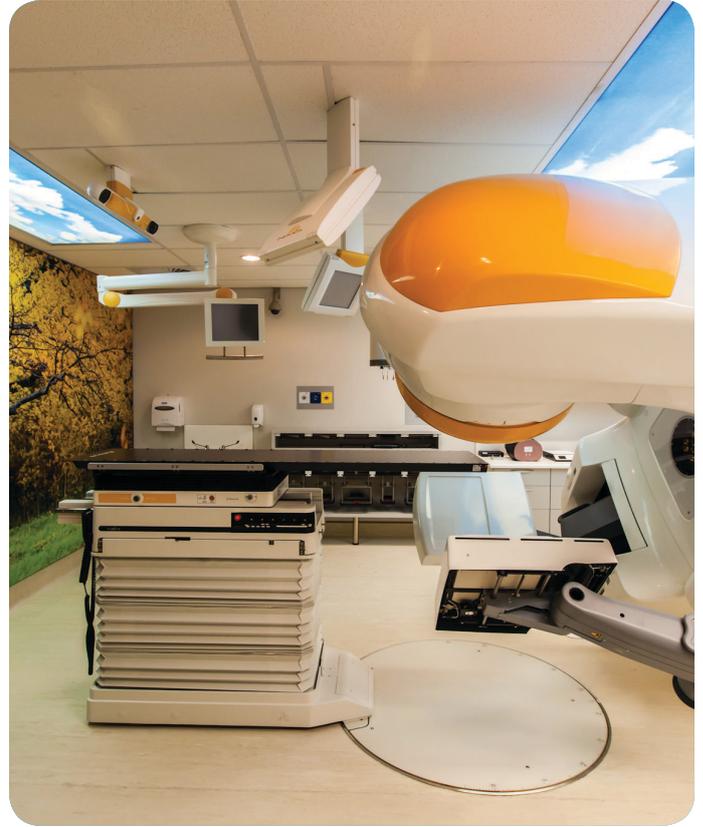


Novalis radiosurgery | FAQs



How do radiosurgery and radiotherapy treat cancer?

Radiosurgery and radiotherapy use high-energy radiation beams to deliver the prescribed radiation dose directly to tumour cells, causing them to shrink or die. Treatment results, which are visible on follow-up scans, include shrinkage of the tumour or no further tumour growth. Because cell destruction is a lengthy process, it can often take up to six months before the effect of treatment can be determined by doctors.

What is the difference between radiosurgery and radiotherapy?

Radiotherapy uses non-invasive radiation beams to treat cancer cells and shrink tumours. However, unlike radiosurgery, radiotherapy is normally given as a series of short, daily treatments called fractions and not a single session with a lower dose of radiation. How many fractions or daily treatments will depend on the tumour type and fitness of the patient.

How does Novalis Tx Radiosurgery work?

Novalis Radiosurgery consists of a high-tech radiation delivery system powered by innovative, sophisticated image-guidance and motion management tools. This state-of-the-art system rotates around you, from many different angles, delivering the cancer-fighting shaped treatment beams where they're needed. The image-guidance and motion management tools provide your doctors with detailed information about the shape, size and position of the tumour, they also guide setup and positioning, and monitor your body and tumour motion during treatment.

Who will benefit from treatment with Novalis Tx Radiosurgery?

Novalis Tx Radiosurgery gives clinicians the ability to treat patients with cancers once considered untreatable and those for whom surgery is not an option, such as tumours deep in the brain.

Why is fast treatment important?

Fast treatment is more comfortable and reduces the likelihood of body or tumour movements, which has the propensity of increasing overall accuracy. In addition to offering one of the fastest treatment times, Novalis Radiosurgery continuously tracks your body and tumour motion and automatically adjusts the beam of radiation, maintaining the highest possible level of treatment accuracy.

What is the treatment advantage of Novalis Radiosurgery?

Other radiosurgery systems use circular beams of radiation to treat tumours and lesions. Most tumours or lesions are irregular in shape so the circular dose cannot completely conform to their exact shape. Novalis Radiosurgery shapes the radiation beam precisely to your tumour or lesion, ensuring that the best possible treatment dose is delivered while your healthy tissue is protected. The radiation beam also adapts to your breathing and other body movements to continuously maintain safe treatment.

Undergoing treatment for a tumour or lesion can be challenging, that's why Novalis radiosurgery is treatment designed with you in mind. Treatments are fast, lasting only minutes, and you wear a frameless custom-fit mask rather than an invasive head ring.

Will there be any side effects?

Your doctor will discuss potential side effects with you depending on your overall treatment plan. Novalis Radiosurgery treatment is not painful in most cases and does not require anaesthesia. Typically, there is no scarring or disfigurement and little risk of infection, compared to conventional surgery.

While side effects are minimized, you may experience a headache, dizziness and fatigue immediately following treatment, so driving is not recommended. Make sure to arrange for transportation home.

What affect can radiation have on my tumour or lesion?

Radiosurgery and radiotherapy use high-energy treatment beams to deliver the prescribed dose directly to your tumour cells, causing them to die. Treatment results, visible on follow-up scans, may include shrinkage of your tumour or no further tumour growth. Because cell destruction and absorption of those cells within your system can be a lengthy process, it may take up to six months before your doctor can determine the effect of treatment.

What is the difference between stereotactic radiosurgery and fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy?

Stereotactic radiosurgery and fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy refer to two treatment delivery methods. Stereotactic radiosurgery delivers a high dose of treatment to the tumour or lesion in a single session. Fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy delivers a series of treatments to the tumour or lesion over a period of time. While both methods typically involve a similar total dose, fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy delivers treatment in smaller amounts. Novalis Radiosurgery supports both stereotactic radiosurgery and fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy treatments. Your doctor will recommend the best treatment method for you based on your individual case.

Source: Novalis, www.novalis-radiosurgery.com, accessed January 2016