

A Revolutionary Advance in Radiation Treatment

The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center will introduce to our region a revolution in cancer treatment with the addition of proton therapy, delivering radiation with unprecedented precision.

This technology targets cancer while preserving the health of nearby organs. Early versions of this technology required expansive space, making it inaccessible to regional centers like ours, but recent breakthroughs in technology and manufacturing have produced smaller and more cost-effective versions making it accessible for our region.

Today, patients travel hundreds of miles to access proton therapy in Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia or Charlotte. The distance to these facilities currently makes proton therapy an impractical and unaffordable option for most residents of Southwest Virginia. As a result, many patients who might benefit from this technology have to choose between following a standard approach or taking the time to travel for this advanced care.

The Carilion Taubman Cancer Center will be the only facility offering this treatment between these major metropolitan areas. This means:

- Eliminating long-distance travel for specialized treatment
- Keeping patients close to family and support systems
- Reducing financial burdens on families: gas, housing, meals and other daily living expenses
- Making advanced cancer care accessible across our 20-county region

The availability of proton therapy locally underscores Carilion's unwavering commitment to world-class care while also protecting our most vulnerable patients. By bringing advanced care here, we help ease the added burden of travel and lost wages. This can make a profound difference in outcomes, and importantly, ease the "costs" on caregivers.

Exceptional Advantages of Proton Therapy

- Minimizing radiation exposure to developing tissues and reducing long-term effects for children with cancer
- Protecting cognitive function and memory in brain tumor patients
- Reducing the risk of damage to vital structures like the spinal cord, heart and lungs in patients needing radiation near critical organs
- Making retreatment safer and more feasible for those requiring repeat radiation treatments
- Preserving quality of life by protecting speech and swallowing function in head and neck cancer patients

Investing in proton therapy extends beyond healthcare. This initiative will also:

- **Create high-paying jobs** in medical physics, radiation therapy and oncology.
- **Drive economic growth** by attracting patients, physicians and researchers to our area.
- **Establish Southwest Virginia as a hub for medical advancement** in cancer treatment, fostering long-term innovation and investment in health care infrastructure.



“Bringing proton therapy to Roanoke is a game-changer. It positions us on the same level as world-class institutions like Mass General and Mayo Clinic, but in a community where access to care has historically been a challenge. With proton therapy in place, there will be nothing we can't do here.”

— DR. DAVID BUCK
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, RADIATION ONCOLOGY
CARILION CLINIC

To make a donation, please visit us online at carilionfoundation.org or call (540) 224-4544.