



Pencil Beam Scanning technology takes proton therapy services for Korean cancer patients another step forward

The Korean National Cancer Center upgrades its IBA equipment to ensure that patients receive the best possible cancer care

Ilсан, Korea, October 20, 2015 – IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A., EURONEXT), the world’s leading provider of proton therapy solutions for the treatment of cancer, announces that Korea’s National Cancer Center (NCC) has taken proton therapy services in the Asia Pacific region to the next level with the recent installation and deployment of the Pencil Beam Scanning (PBS) delivery modality. On 22 September, PBS treatment was initiated for the first cancer patient to benefit from the superior precision of this delivery technique in Korea.

Established in 2000 to reduce the incidence and mortality of cancer in Korea, the NCC has offered local access to proton therapy to cancer patients since 2007. It remains the only such facility in the country today.

NCC’s clinical staff members have two gantry rooms and one fixed beam room available. Liver cases make up the majority of patients at the NCC Proton Therapy Center, but indications such as pediatric, lung, brain, head & neck and pancreatic cancer are also treated.

As a very precise delivery modality, Pencil Beam Scanning opens the door to Intensity-Modulated Proton Therapy (IMPT), which allows clinicians to further minimize the dose to surrounding normal tissue. With the acquisition of PBS, the center broadens the scope of indications eligible for proton therapy, and is better equipped for complex cases such as large-volume tumors and skull base chordomas, or situations requiring craniospinal irradiation. The cancer patient who was selected for the first PBS treatment session currently receives combined Double Scattering/PBS proton treatment. Two more patients will join the PBS treatment program in the course of this week.

Access to the latest developments in cancer treatment is crucial in a country where cancer has been the leading cause of death for decades and that, despite the decrease in cancer mortality, is still facing a significantly increasing cancer incidence. NCC’s upgrade to PBS perfectly illustrates IBA’s upgradability. Keeping the welfare of cancer patients top of mind, IBA considers it a priority to make technological improvements available to its customers as quickly as possible.

Dr. Se Byeong Lee, Chief Medical Physicist at the National Cancer Center of Korea, commented: “Cancer being one of the primary health concerns in Korea, access to state-of-the-art treatment modalities is imperative for us. We have been anticipating PBS for a while now. It is exciting to know that our proton therapy treatments will not only gain in accuracy, but that we will also be able to open up our proton therapy facilities to a widening group of patients.”

Frédéric Genin, IBA’s Executive Vice President Product Management, commented: “IBA’s mission is not only to make proton therapy available to anyone who needs it, but also to maximally leverage its benefits. We make it part of our services and a priority concern to keep our installed base posted about any upgrade opportunities. Deploying the PBS delivery modality enables NCC to maintain the highest quality of care.”

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About Proton Therapy

Proton Therapy is considered the most advanced and targeted cancer radiotherapy treatment due to its superior dose distribution and fewer side effects. Protons deposit the majority of their effective energy within a precisely controlled range, directly within the tumor, sparing healthy surrounding tissue. Higher doses can be delivered to the tumor without increasing the risk of side effects and long term complications, thereby improving patient outcomes and quality of life. Today, more than half of all proton therapy clinical facilities worldwide are equipped with IBA systems. This includes 18 proton therapy centers currently in operation and 16 additional centers under development.

While proton therapy today represents less than 1% of radiotherapy treatments, studies estimate that more than 17% of patients treated by radiotherapy would benefit from being treated by this technique.

About IBA

IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.) is a global medical technology company focused on bringing integrated and innovative solutions for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The company is the worldwide technology leader in the field of proton therapy, the most advanced form of radiation therapy available today. IBA's proton therapy solutions are flexible and adaptable, allowing customers to choose from universal full-scale proton therapy centers as well as compact, single room systems. In addition, IBA also has a radiation dosimetry business and develops particle accelerators for the medical world and industry.

Headquartered in Belgium and employing about 1100 people worldwide, IBA has installed systems across the world, from Europe and the US to emerging markets. IBA is listed on the pan-European stock exchange EURONEXT. (IBA: Reuters IBAB.BR and Bloomberg IBAB.BB). More information can be found at: www.iba-worldwide.com

About the National Cancer Center – Korea

Korea's National Cancer Center (NCC) was established in 2000. It is funded by the Korean Ministry of Health & Welfare and strives to improve national health and welfare by reducing the incidence and mortality of cancer through research, patient care, education and training, and support for national cancer control programs. The National Cancer Center performs 9000 operations and radiotherapy treatments per year, and publishes about 245 articles annually on cancer in journals indexed in the Science Citation Index.



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