

Introduction to the Treatment of Metastases

Metastases are areas of cancer that are spread through the body by a variety of means including the blood stream, lymph system or adjacent metastases. The main point about metastases are that they are at a site different than the original cancer.

While often surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy are used for tumor metastases, unfortunately these technologies have a significant failure rate. Stereotactic body radiosurgery allows us to treat metastases essentially anywhere in the body with a high degree of success (success being defined as cessation of growth, shrinkage or disappearance of the tumor). That we fractionate means our treatment is non-invasive and stereotactic means we use a sophisticated means of technology to target the cancer.

Overall, the vast majority of cancers that are metastatic and treated with stereotactic body radiosurgery are controlled or the duration of the patient's life. This is in marked contrast to other methods of treatment such as chemotherapy, where there is often recurrence even if chemotherapy is less than successful. Essentially any part of the body can be considered for body radiosurgery.

You can contact us directly at 212-CHOICES or e-mail questions to GIL.LEDERMAN@RSNY.ORG. Our monthly seminars are open to the public at no charge.