

Overview of patient set-up and delivery with tips

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4 March 2022

Treatment of uveal melanoma with proton therapy has been in practice for almost 50 years. Proton therapy achieves a high rate of tumor local control with eye preservation and frequently with vision preservation as well. Whereas there have been significant developments over the years and the method of proton therapy delivery, the staple of set up and treatment remains largely preserved at our institution because of the ease and robustness of the system. The immobilization and delivery system utilizes an upright treatment unit with a dedicated fixed proton beam line with the patient sitting upright. A standard thermoplastic mask is used, fitted to the treatment unit. In addition to the chair and headframe movement in standard orthogonal planes, the headframe additionally allows for pitch and yaw corrections. Patient participation is fundamental to minimizing injury from radiation by maintaining an established gaze direction optimized by treatment plan. Common clinical challenges and adjustments to ensure the best possible smooth delivery of treatment are shared.