

# WHY TRAVEL for CANCER TREATMENT?

A cancer diagnosis brings many questions, one being where to seek treatment.

For a variety of reasons, some patients choose to travel for care.

Here are some of the factors that influence their decision.

Confirm your cancer type and stage while exploring what different hospitals offer.

## 1 SECOND OPINION

Make a more informed decision about your care by verifying your diagnosis and learning about advanced treatments not offered at all hospitals.

1 in 8 cancer patients is misdiagnosed



If original diagnosis is confirmed, a second opinion may reveal additional treatment options.

## 2 ACCESS TO TREATMENTS

The availability of advanced technology is especially important for those with advanced forms of cancer. Some advanced treatments not offered at all hospitals include:



**Robotic radiosurgery** offers a non-invasive alternative to open surgery using radiation therapy.



**Genomic tumor assessment** examines a tumor on a genetic level to find the DNA alterations. This helps physicians tailor your treatment based on the tumor's genetic makeup.



**Intraoperative radiation therapy (IORT)** delivers a concentrated dose of radiation therapy to a tumor bed during surgery. IORT helps spare nearby healthy tissues that could be damaged using other techniques.

## 3 SPECIALITY IN YOUR DISEASE

A doctor who specializes in your cancer type, such as a head and neck surgeon or a neurosurgeon, has more training and experience treating your disease.



**Specialists spend their residency training** during medical school focused on a specific area of medicine. Subspecialists, such as medical oncologists, have additional training.



**TRAVEL TIPS**  
Explore all travel assistance provided by the hospital: transportation, lodging, meals, mileage reimbursement.

## 4 TEAM EXPERTISE

Each member of your team of clinicians has an important role in your care. Team members should collaborate and coordinate a personalized treatment plan for the patient.



Your team would be comprised of all or some of the following: medical oncologist, radiation and/or surgical oncologist, care manager, integrative oncology clinicians.

## 5 FULLY INTEGRATIVE MODEL

Integrative oncology services help manage side effects, boost your energy and keep you strong during treatment.

**These services may include:**

nutrition support, acupuncture, pain management and spiritual support.

Some hospitals offer integrative services under one roof. For hospitals that don't, getting these services would require extra commuting.



## KEEP IN TOUCH

Also consider the communication between your hometown providers and cancer treatment provider. Your travel schedule will depend on the type of treatment you're receiving, so you could be at the hospital every two weeks to every two months.

- Is this something the cancer treatment provider will initiate proactively?
- Ensure you have a local provider who will work with your cancer treatment provider if you need anything while at home.

**Nearly 70%** of patients who treat at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® travel to one of our hospitals from another state. Here's why:

**Our physicians have expertise in treating many forms of cancer**, including complex and advanced-stage diseases.

**Our patients receive** an individualized, comprehensive treatment plan from a team of cancer experts.

**Our hospitals offer advanced technologies and tools** to fight cancer combined with integrative oncology services to improve quality of life—all under one roof.

OUR JOURNEY of HOPE®