

the leading answer to pet cancer



Stephanie Correa, DVM

Deerfield Beach - Saturday appointments now available!

Dr. Carrie Kosarek has joined our team and will be seeing patients in West Palm Beach on Fridays and in Deerfield Beach on Saturdays.

South Miami - With the addition of board certified medical oncologist Maria Camps, DVM, and increased hours by Dr. Stephanie Correa, we are now available to receive cases at our South Miami clinic full time.

Fort Lauderdale - Construction has begun on our new comprehensive cancer care and wellness center in Fort Lauderdale. Opening Summer 2009.

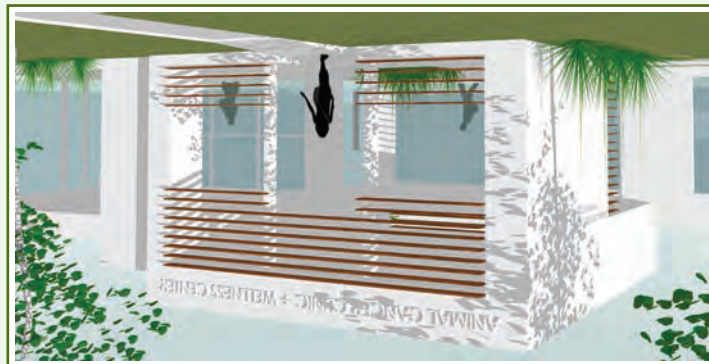


www.animalcancercareclinic.com

COMING SOON

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WEST PALM BEACH

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- Updates on Clinic Schedules including New Saturday Hours

Stephanie Correa, DVM
Board Certified in Medical Oncology

Pedro Dominguez, DVM
Board Certified in Medical Oncology
Board Eligible in Radiation Oncology

Maria Camps, DVM
Board Certified in Medical Oncology

Carrie Kosarek, DVM, MS
Board Certified in Medical Oncology

Advances in Radiation Therapy

By: **Pedro Dominguez, DVM**

Board Certified in Medical Oncology

Board Eligible in Radiation Oncology

Since their discovery by Roentgen in 1895, x-rays have played a major role in modern medicine, especially in diagnostic imaging. However, high energy x-rays are also used as an effective treatment modality for various diseases, especially cancer. Radiation targets the cell's DNA causing damage that leads to cell death or to the impairment of its capacity to replicate.



Radiation therapy, the collective use of x-rays for treatment purposes, has become an essential component of the multi-modality approach to cancer treatment in dogs and cats. In fact, in the majority of cancer cases the application of multi-modality therapy results in better outcome than either modality alone. In dogs and cats, radiation therapy in combination with surgery and/or chemotherapy has provided significant improvement in local disease control and survival outcome for various tumors types.

With recent advances in diagnostic imaging for tumor localization (ie. CT, MRI, PET) and computerized treatment planning systems, dogs and cats with cancer can be treated in an aggressive manner with minimal normal tissue complications. Normal tissues are more tolerant to the effects of radiation as they are able to repair radiation damage more efficiently than tumor tissue. This differential capacity to repair radiation damage allows us to treat most tumors effectively without long-term side effects.

In veterinary medicine, radiation therapy is applied as a curative modality when tumors cannot be removed with surgery, after debulking procedures to “clean-up” residual disease or as the primary treatment modality to reduce the size of a tumor before surgery is performed. Curative-intent radiation therapy, which is typically administered daily for a period of 3 to 4 weeks, can be used to treat soft tissue sarcomas, mast cell tumors, oral and nasal tumors, brain and spinal cord tumors, prostate tumors, anal sac tumors, plasma cell tumors, heart base tumors, thyroid tumors and others. The radiation is delivered in small fractions to minimize normal tissue complications and maximize tumor control.

Radiation can also be used for palliation in veterinary patients, and is the most effective modality to relieve bone pain associated with primary tumors (ie. osteosarcoma) or metastatic disease. Palliative radiation can also be used to slow down the progression of fast growing tumors when metastatic disease is already present. These protocols typically involve the delivery of a few large doses of radiation once or twice a week.

With dual photon beam energy, multiple electron beam energy, multi-leaf collimator and intensity modulation capability, the linear accelerator at Animal Cancer Care Clinic and Wellness Center in Fort Lauderdale will provide cutting edge technology for the treatment of dogs and cats in South Florida.

For more information or a radiation therapy consultation, please call
Dr. Dominguez at (954) 421-5099.

www.animalcancercareclinic.com

