

# **A New Tool in the Management of Skin Cancer**

**C. Joseph Bennett, Jr. M.D.**

Each year, more than a million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States, making it a serious public health concern. Living in Florida, we certainly see our share of this disease. The Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute recently added a new treatment option for skin cancer to their growing arsenal of treatment options. Designed for use in brachytherapy treatment of small superficial skin cancers, the new Leipzig Applicator allows Drs Brant and Bennett to treat superficial skin cancers such as Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma over a 10 day period, for only minutes a day, without surgery, anesthesia, or sutures.

High Dose Rate brachytherapy, for surface treatment of skin cancer using the innovative Leipzig applicator, offers an effective alternative to other treatment modalities, such as surgery, for small superficial skin carcinomas. The cosmetic results are excellent, with no scar created during this treatment. Patients' setup and reproducibility is accurate, and the treatment time is short for added patient convenience.

The use of the Leipzig applicator is a successful alternative to surgical treatment of skin cancers. It is applicable for most small skin cancers, and particularly useful for treating lesions located around the eyelids, ear, and nose where cosmetic results are so important. The Leipzig applicator is designed to limit the irradiation to the required area and are designed to treat to the correct depth without overexposing the skin, yielding good local control rates accompanied by excellent cosmetic and functional results.

For more information, contact the Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute at (352) 527-0106.

May 2009