

Mayo Clinic Minute

Proton beam therapy bolsters cancer treatment

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Inside the Mayo Clinic's Proton Beam Therapy Program, doctors are using highly charged protons to attack cancer tumors.
Title: NADIA LAACK, M.D. ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	We can actually control and dial how far they go by controlling them with magnets.
.	Mayo Clinic radiation oncologist Dr. Nadia Laack says a technique called pencil beam scanning makes this work even more precise.
	We can have the protons pull back a little bit, and, basically, paint over a tumor layer by layer.
	Because proton beam therapy concentrates radiation and reduces damage to surrounding healthy tissue ...
	... it's especially beneficial in treating children's cancers and intricate adult tumors ...
	... tumors that are very complicated in shape and wrapped around critical structures, like brain stem or spinal cord.
	Dr. Laack says a series of clinical trials is now underway using protons to treat breast, prostate, brain and other cancers. Results from these investigations will help determine the next chapter in this cutting-edge cancer therapy.
Graphic: newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jeff Olsen.