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Mayo Clinic Minute: Using targeted therapy to treat breast cancer

Video	Audio
	Unlike traditional X-ray radiation, proton beam therapy can more precisely target tumors, sparing more normal tissue.
Robert Mutter, M.D. Radiation Oncology Mayo Clinic	"The main advantage is this idea of sparing normal tissues and reducing late side effects of treatment. This is especially important in breast cancer."
	Dr. Robert Mutter says because the heart sits right behind breast tissue, using protons to target breast cancer tumors can reduce the radiation dose to the heart and lungs, and may offer better outcomes for patients.
	"We think that that's going to lead to less risk of heart disease, and less risk of lung disease or second cancers in the future."
	Dr. Mutter says in recent years, studies have shown the potential to safely shorten the course of radiation treatment for breast cancer.
	"We think that protons may be a way that we can do this even more effectively because protons expose less normal tissues. If we can reduce the number of daily treatments, that means that my patients are able to be back with their families, or back at their work or the things that they love to do, and not coming in for their treatment."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.