

PRESS RELEASE

Esch/Alzette, 22 April 2025

CANCER OF THE UTERUS - a promising treatment method is being developed in Luxembourg

The Centre François Baclesse (CFB), the Grand Duchy's National Radiotherapy Center, is working closely with the Centre Hospitalier Emile Mayrisch (CHEM) to develop a promising new method for treating tumors affecting the cervix and the body of the uterus, uterovaginal brachytherapy, which until now has only been practiced in neighboring countries.

Brachytherapy – treating cancer at the heart of the tumor

Brachytherapy is a radiation technique that involves introducing radioactive sources (iridium) in contact with or even inside the tumor. This treatment is therefore optimal for targeting the area affected by the cancer, directly and with precision, while providing greater protection to nearby organs.

Brachytherapy has been used at the CFB for many years in the treatment of prostate cancer, as well as in combination with external radiotherapy in the treatment of vaginal fundus.

Since 2024, the CFB has been developing a new application of this treatment: utero-vaginal brachytherapy, a first in Luxembourg. This technique is used, in addition to external radiotherapy treatment, for tumors affecting the cervix and the body of the uterus. It requires two short hospitalizations of two days at an interval of one week.

“By developing this technique in the Grand Duchy, we are offering our patients more centralized care within Luxembourg and aiming to improve their comfort during their therapeutic journey; previously they had to undergo this 'additional dose' in neighboring countries,” explains Dr. Johanne Hermesse, Radiation Oncologist at the Centre François Baclesse.

A collective effort that opens up new perspectives for patients

The implementation of this practice in Luxembourg is the result of close collaboration between the Centre Hospitalier Emile Mayrisch (CHEM) and the CFB.

“We provide our surgical unit, patient transport and one of our inpatient departments. Many employees have been trained in the specifics of this type of treatment: the anaesthesia team, our medical technical assistants and several nurses of the CHEM, as well as the CFB brachytherapy specialists”, explains Dr René Metz, CHEM's Chief Executive Officer.

On the strength of this success, the CFB and the CHEM are planning to jointly develop new indications - in particular cancerous or benign skin lesions (keloids).

About Centre François Baclesse

Centre François Baclesse (CFB) is a not-for-profit healthcare establishment that treats patients with curative or palliative radiotherapy indications. It is part of a multidisciplinary oncology context involving all public and private hospitals in Luxembourg and the Greater Region.

The CFB offers patients and their families' comprehensive, safe, high-quality care, based on a humane, participatory approach.

The center aims to work with other players in Luxembourg and the Greater Region to develop a network of excellence in the field of oncology and post-cancer support.

It is also committed to oncology research and participates in the training of future generations of caregivers.

About the CHEM

With its 37 medical specialties, the CHEM offers a technical platform with state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment equipment, as well as a competent team providing interdisciplinary care 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

1 980 employees and 204 doctors work at the three sites of Esch-sur-Alzette, Niederkorn and Dudelange to treat more than 140 000 patients a year. The hospital focuses on cutting-edge medicine and interdisciplinary care, while remaining an establishment with human values that is close to its citizens.

Contact

Laura STAR
Communications Officer
laura.star@baclesse.lu
Tel. + 352 5711 67 402

Cellule Communication CHEM
communication@chem.lu
Tel. + 352 5711 82 208 / 5711 82 206