The cancer treatment center at Nash Health Care Systems was developed by Drs. Patrick J. Cavanaugh and Hewlett Connell nearly 20 years ago. Dr. Cavanaugh previously served as the Chief of Radiation Therapy at Duke University Medical Center and Radiation Program Director at the National Cancer Institute.

Our facility currently features two high-energy linear accelerators, a simulator and three-dimensional treatment planning computer capability.

But what does this mean for our patients?

It means less time in a waiting room. It means efficient utilization of technology which equals lower costs. It means having enough time for treatment to be a positive experience.

Cancer prevention and early detection are also priorities at the Nash Cancer Treatment Center. In addition to scheduled cancer screening examinations, nutritional information is also available, because national statistics show that 25 percent of all cancer deaths are caused by dietary factors.

The physical fight against cancer is only half the battle; the Nash Cancer Treatment Center provides resources for emotional support as well, including counseling, support groups and a wealth of educational resources.

Gene Paige, a Zebulon resident, opted to go to Rocky Mount when he sought treatment for his throat cancer.

"It's the best decision I made," he said. "Everyone that I encountered was genuinely concerned about the patients. They were positive and upbeat. I was always met with a smile. I was told there were not any morbidities. They went through the process step by step and explained to me what was going on and what I could expect.

"Basically your life is in their hands, and it's comfortable knowing that your future is in good hands." He said. "When I first got to the hospital and the doctors were explaining the situation, I could see that they were very familiar with what they were doing. They had a lot of experience.

"I would say that it was a very comfortable situation. It was a very good experience. I would definitely recommend Nash Cancer Treatment Center to others."

Our convenient location also meant that Gene was often able to drive himself to his appointments—and was able to finish treatment before a diagnosis was announced and a morbid outlook was awaiting.

"I am very independent," Gene said. "I was glad that I could drive myself to treatment. This is a great asset to the hospital and the eastern part of the state."

When Ed Davenport faced radiation treatments for prostate cancer, convenience was definitely a consideration.

"When you have to go 38 times for treatment, time and hassle matter," he said.

Ed carefully researched several facilities before deciding to seek treatment at the Nash Cancer Treatment Center.

"I found the Nash Cancer Treatment Center had the best and latest equipment and a highly trained professional staff. I was comfortable knowing that matters were handled with care.

"I found the Nash Cancer Treatment Center to be the best and latest equipment and a highly trained professional staff. It was wonderful to have the latest technology and staff," he said. "Since 2001, our center has gone from 35/45 treatments to 10/60 treatments and provided 6/60 consultations. We have realized this equipment allows us to offer the latest in medical technology to our patients and makes their treatment less stressful."

Since 1998, our center has given more than 34,000 treatments and provided 1,436 consultations. We have realized this equipment allows us to offer the latest in medical technology to our patients and makes their treatment less stressful.

"Basically, your life is in their hands, and I felt very comfortable knowing that—very comfortable. It's been the best decision I made."
"They called her "Sunshine." It was a simple greeting, but one that embodied the staff's dedication to their patients. Former patient and breast cancer survivor Barbara Hunter said it was the dedication of the staff that made the difference. "They gave me encouragement when I needed it, information when I was confused and therapy when I needed to cry."

"They didn't know me from Adam, but they were so caring. I still had breast cancer, but they made me feel like I was whole. They called me "Sunshine." They stayed by my side...""

For the staff, it was more than a job. It was a calling. It was family.

Beth Kelly, radiation therapist, Nash Cancer Treatment Center

Darenda Proctor, cancer survivor, Spring Hope, NC

"We are so pleased to hear patients say that they feel comfortable coming here. We ensure that patients receive the individualized treatment that they need. We schedule treatments so that there is enough time for patients to ask questions and receive answers. We know each case individually and we tailor the treatments to meet their specific needs."
The Nash Cancer Treatment Center provides a complete complement of care designed to meet individual needs. In addition to the best medical care available, the center offers services including:

- Nutritional information including recipes designed to strengthen the body and fight fatigue that often accompanies cancer treatment.
- Educational materials, including information on local support groups.
- Access to spiritual support through the Nash Health Care System Pastoral Care Department.
- Pain management strategies including therapeutic massage.
- Free cancer screenings.

The physical fight against cancer is only half the battle. Education equals power, and we have extensive contacts for local support groups, as well as services offered by the American Cancer Society.

The Nash Cancer Treatment Center
Ovarian Support Group
This is a support and educational group for anyone who has ovarian cancer or a related gynecological cancer. Financial aid and long-term follow-up also are available. This group meets monthly at Nash General Hospital. For more information, call 1-866-478-3871.

Hepatic Support Group
A support group for those with liver illness. Call 604-244-8124.

Pain Management
A pain management support group meets monthly at Nash Memorial Hospital. For more information, call 1-866-478-3871.

Ostomy Support Group
This is a support and educational group for anyone who has an ostomy as a result of bladder or colorectal cancer. Financial aid and long-term follow-up are available. This group meets monthly at Nash General Hospital. For more information, call 1-866-478-3871.

Keeping Breast Support Group
This breast cancer support group meets monthly at Nash General Hospital. For more information, call 1-866-478-3871.

Cancer Resource Center
Programs are available for those with cancer. Call 1-866-478-3871.

Gyn Oncology Services
The Nash Cancer Treatment Center offers a complete program of gynecological cancer treatment. Call 1-866-478-3871.

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