



**Vitruvian Health**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MEDIA

INFORMATION

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## **Hamilton Medical Center performs 100th Ion robotic-assisted bronchoscopy procedure**

**DALTON, Ga. (May 26, 2026)** – Sumedha Sonde, MD, pulmonologist, recently performed Hamilton Medical Center’s 100<sup>th</sup> Ion robotic-assisted bronchoscopy procedure. Ion significantly enhances the early detection of lung cancer.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the U.S., largely because it’s often found too late. With its advanced navigation and precision, Ion allows physicians to biopsy tiny, hard-to-reach nodules earlier and more safely than traditional methods.

When lung cancer is diagnosed early, patients experience a nearly 8 times higher five-year survival rate than those diagnosed at a later stage.

“Ion gives us a powerful new tool in the fight against lung cancer,” said Sumedha Sonde, MD, pulmonologist. “It helps us reach deep into the lungs with greater safety and accuracy, allowing us to diagnose earlier and act faster.”

Hamilton’s program includes low-dose CT scans followed by Ion-assisted biopsies for eligible high-risk patients.

For appointments or referrals, call 706-272-6565. For more information, visit [VitruvianHealth.com/ion](http://VitruvianHealth.com/ion).

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**Photo:** Sumedha Sonde, MD, is pictured in the center with Bandy Endoscopy Center associates.

### **About Hamilton Medical Center**

The flagship affiliate for Vitruvian Health’s Northwest Georgia region, Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) is a 255-bed regional acute-care hospital that offers major medical, surgical and diagnostic services,

including accredited stroke and chest pain centers. Advanced technology and wellness are two significant areas of focus for HMC. Services include the freestanding Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center, Hamilton Diagnostics Center, and Bradley Wellness Center, as well as a Level III trauma center, Peoples Cancer Institute, Heart & Vascular program (including open heart surgery), Bandy Endoscopy Center, Hamilton Spine Health and Sport, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and more.

#### **About HMC's Bandy Endoscopy Center**

Bandy Endoscopy Center, at Hamilton Medical Center, uses the latest endoscopic instruments with high-definition images and narrow-band image capability for improved detection and diagnosis of GI disorders. The sophisticated digital fluoroscopy and radiology equipment delivers the highest-quality images, with the lowest radiation exposure. New impedance and manometry equipment mean vastly improved diagnosis for patients with reflux and atypical chest pain. The Center provides Ion by Intuitive, a groundbreaking robotic-assisted bronchoscopy system that significantly enhances the early detection of lung cancer. With its advanced navigation and precision, Ion allows physicians to biopsy tiny, hard-to-reach nodules earlier and more safely than traditional methods.

#### **About Vitruvian Health**

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization's recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton's logo since 1976. Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton's integrated system of care.