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Memorial Health First in Georgia to Use Innovative Technology for Lung Cancer Diagnosis

Robotic Bronchoscopy Could Enable Earlier and More-Accurate Diagnosis of Lung Nodules

Savannah, GA (June 10, 2020) – Memorial Health is the first healthcare system in Georgia and among the first hospitals in the United States to offer robotic-assisted bronchoscopy for patients with lung nodules utilizing Auris Health’s Monarch™ Platform. There are currently only 52 of these in use in the US.

“Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the US, in part because it has no symptoms in its early stages,” said Dr. Jason McClune, interventional pulmonologist. “This new technology has the potential to help us to make a diagnosis earlier while also providing a safer biopsy procedure. We’re excited to bring robotic-assisted bronchoscopy to Memorial Health as we believe it offers a more hopeful future for patients with lung cancer.”

More than 90 percent of people diagnosed with lung cancer do not survive the disease, because it is often found at an advanced stage. There are a variety of diagnostic options currently available for lung cancer, but all have limitations in accuracy, safety, or invasiveness. Robotic-assisted bronchoscopy is a new technology that allows for earlier detection of lung cancer with greater accuracy. This minimally invasive procedure is safer than CT-guided lung biopsy and unlike a traditional bronchoscopy, the robotic platform gives the physician the ability to reach the entire lung safely and obtain tissue samples of small and hard-to-reach nodules in the periphery of the lung. It also has a lower risk for complications than traditional biopsy techniques.
A timely benefit of robotic-assisted bronchoscopy is that it requires minimal interaction at the head of the table. Because the scope is guided using a controller, the physician and clinical staff are able to socially distance during the procedure, creating a safer experience for both the patient and care team.

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*Memorial Health provides the region’s only Level I trauma center for the most acute illness and injuries, as well as dedicated children’s, cancer and heart hospitals to serve a 35-county area in southeast Georgia and southern South Carolina. The system includes its flagship hospital – Memorial Health University Medical Center - a 630-bed academic medical center; Memorial Health University Physicians’ primary and specialty care networks; a major medical education program and business and industry services. Memorial Health is a part of the HCA Healthcare family, the largest provider of care in the United States and the UK.*