

Leksell Gamma Knife® Icon™

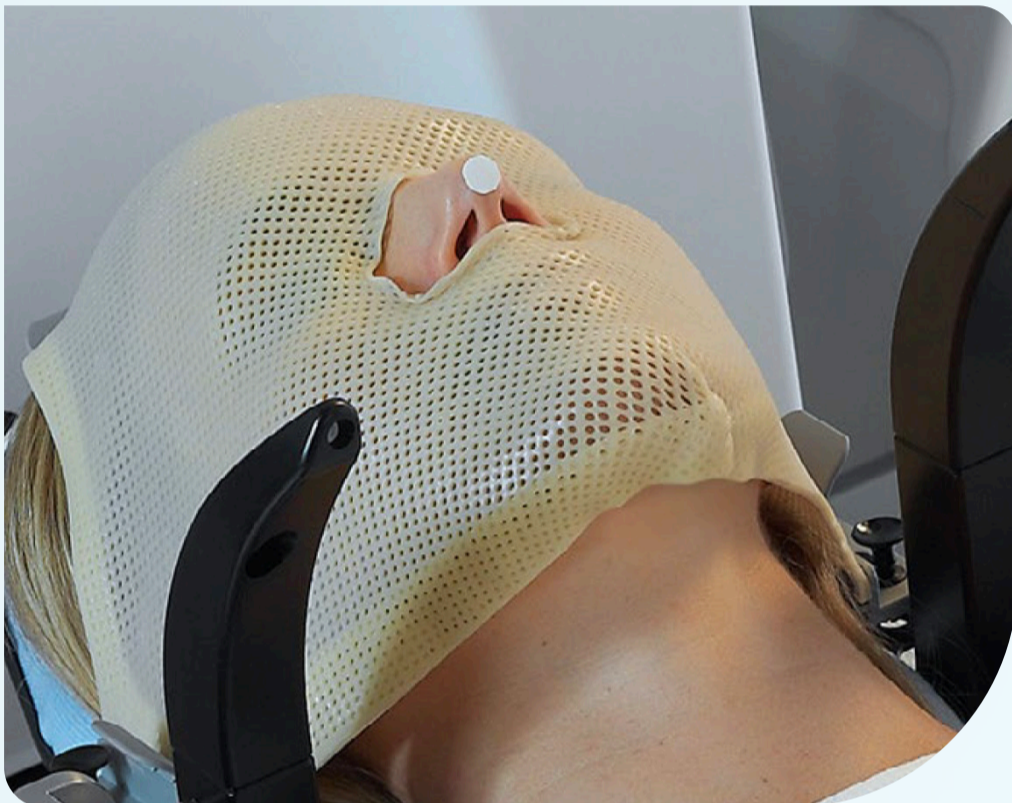
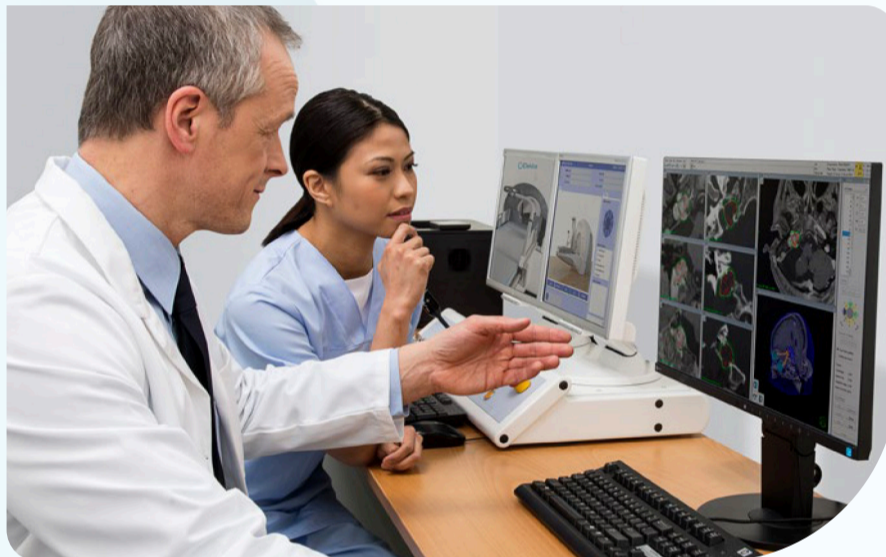
Treatment information for patients

Gamma Knife® surgery is a clinically proven method to treat intracranial (within the skull) locations – such as the brain, brain stem, or the trigeminal nerve. Despite its name, the Leksell Gamma Knife is not a blade that cuts, but a highly sophisticated non-invasive technology that uses radiation to destroy targeted tissue in a very precise manner while minimizing exposure to healthy surrounding tissues and critical structures. This reduces the risk of potential side effects.

During the treatment, up to 192 radiation beams can be precisely directed to one or more intracranial lesions, so the tissue where the beams intersect receives a concentrated dose of radiation.

TREATMENT PLANNING

Once your images are captured, your physician works with a specialized medical physicist to calculate exactly how the treatment should be performed – the number of beams and where they must intersect to deliver the most effective treatment while protecting surrounding tissue and structures.



CONSULTATION

It all begins with your consultation.

You meet with a neurosurgeon or radiation oncologist to discuss your condition, your medical history and your treatment options.

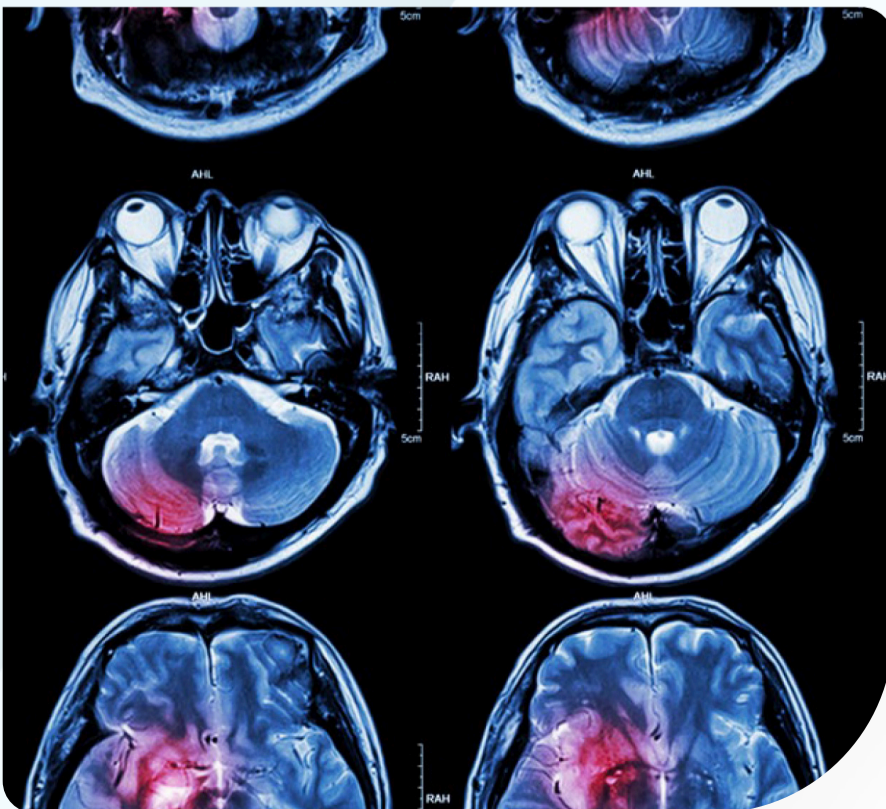
SECURING ACCURACY WITH A FRAME OR FACE MASK

When you arrive for your Leksell Gamma Knife Icon treatment, your physician places the stereotactic head frame on your head. If you are treated with a face mask, you will have a custom face mask made for you prior to the treatment. The frame and mask keep your head from moving during your imaging/treatment sessions, allowing for pinpoint treatment accuracy.



DEFINING THE TARGET WITH IMAGING

While you are positioned in the head frame or mask, images are captured to enable the most effective treatment plan possible. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) or angiography images help define the exact target, which is vital to accurate treatment planning.



TREATMENT

When it is time for your treatment, you are positioned on the treatment couch for treatment. Your head frame or face mask is then secured to the couch. The treatment may last from a few minutes to more than an hour, depending on the size, shape, and complexity of the target(s) being treated. The treatment itself is painless—in fact, some patients even fall asleep. You can communicate with your treatment team at any time by intercom or hand signal.



AFTER YOUR TREATMENT

Normal activities can usually be resumed in a day or so.

Treatments are designed to stop the growth of tumors or dysfunctional tissue, which means that the effects are observed over a period of weeks or months. Your physician will stay in contact to assess your progress, which may include follow-up visits and imaging.

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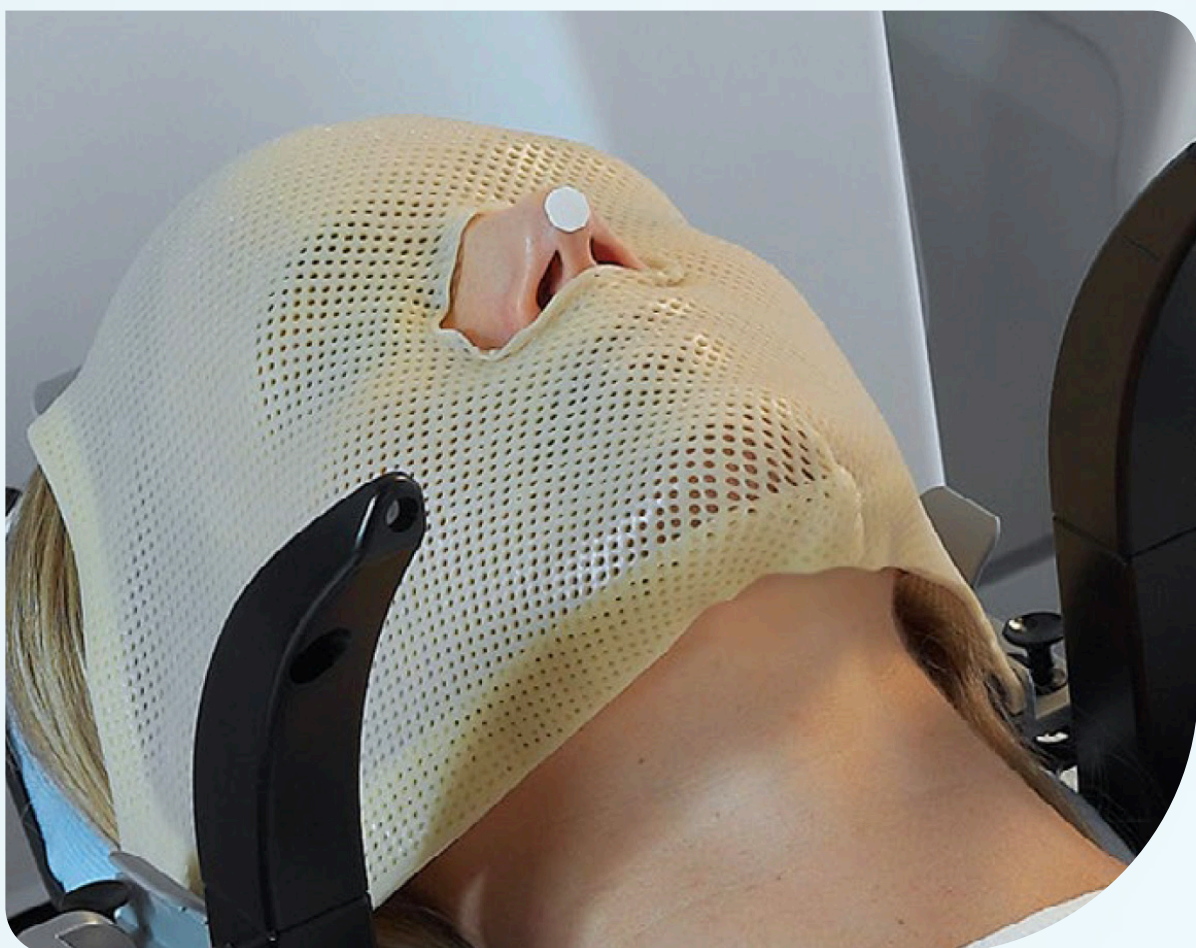
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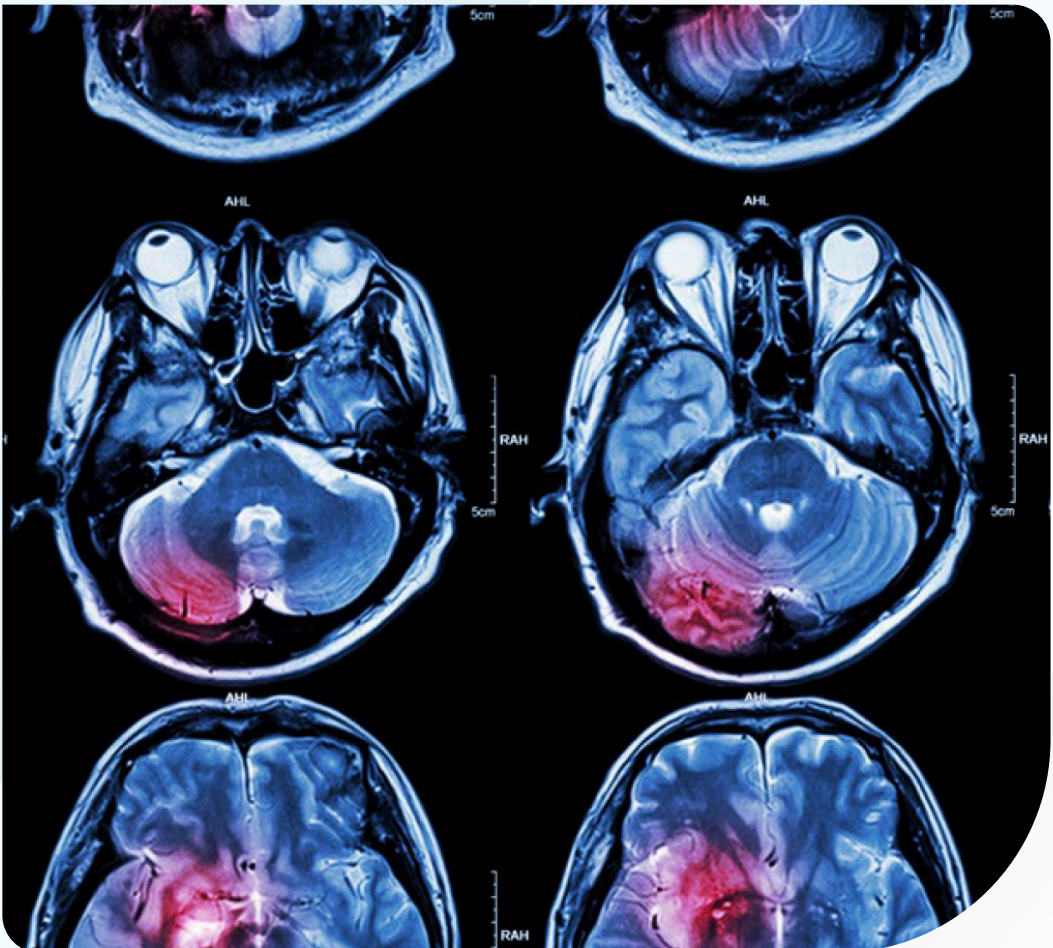
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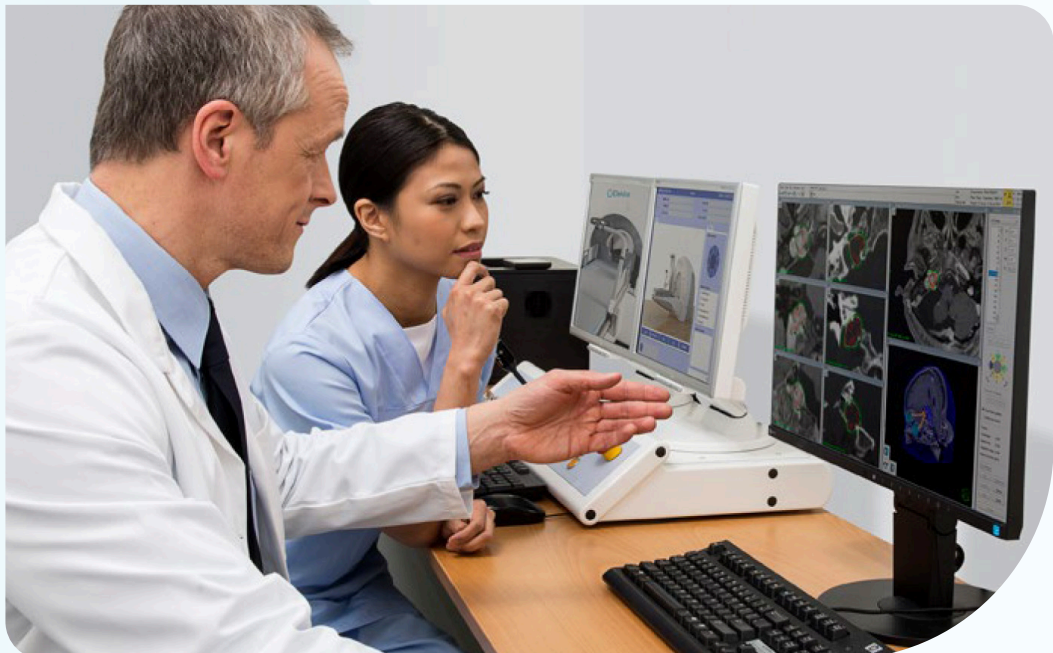
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