

Questions To Ask When Evaluating A Program For The Treatment Of Brain And Spine Tumors

1. **Does the program use a technology that can irradiate the tumor with true sub-millimeter accuracy?**

Why this is important:

Radiation delivered to the brain and spine requires high accuracy and precise shaping of the treatment beams. The TrueBeam Stx offers both, with demonstrated sub-millimeter aiming (accuracy) and the most precise beam shaping tools available. By limiting radiation to the tumor, adjacent critical healthy tissues can be spared.

2. **Does the program offer a multi-disciplinary tumor board of cancer medical experts to review the specifics of your case?**

Why this is important:

Our tumor board includes neurosurgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, neuroradiologists, and pathologists—who collectively design an individualized treatment plan, unique to your needs. Working in this type of a collaborative environment brings the best minds to the table and assures you of getting the best treatment available.

3. **Does the program offer a Nurse Navigator to help you and your family coordinate all aspects of your treatment and point you towards resources for your recovery?**

Why this is important:

Our Nurse Navigator guides you and your family through the treatment process, coordinates your various follow-up appointments and steers you towards any resources you may need, including support groups, social workers and spiritual support. We believe in treating the whole patient, not just the physical aspects of your cancer.

4. **Does the program offer access to clinical trials?**

Why this is important:

Clinical trials are at the heart of all medical advances and offer access to some of the newest, leading edge treatments available. At John Muir Health, we not only offer access to a wide variety of clinical trials, but we also actively coordinate participation on your behalf to reduce the hassle for you.

5. **Has the program been in existence for 10+ years?**

Why this is important:

At John Muir Health, we've treated more than 600+ patients since our program began in 2004. There is no substitution for experience, and you should ask about the number of procedures typically performed each year, as well as since the program's inception.

For more information about our cancer programs at John Muir Health, please call (925) 947-3322 or visit johnmuirhealth.com/cancer.

