

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE ANNOUNCES HIGH-TECH CANCER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT COMING
TO WICHITA MEDICAL CENTERS

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) announced today that two Wichita medical centers will soon be getting state-of-the-art equipment to help cancer patients get the latest in therapy treatments. According to Dole, the Regional Medical Center in Wichita and the St. Joseph Medical Center, Wichita, will jointly purchase a new linear accelerator for radiation therapy. Half of the cost of the new equipment - \$740,000 - will be paid by the Veterans Administration as part of their advanced technology acquisition and sharing program.

"Kansans deserve the latest in medical technology. This state-of-the-art equipment will enhance the capability of both medical centers in treating cancer patients. I'm pleased the VA has chosen these top-notch Kansas medical facilities to receive this specialized equipment," said Dole.

The equipment represents the latest technology for delivering high-energy radiation therapy to cancer patients. The equipment will be housed at the St. Joseph facility.

According to the VA, the cost of radiation therapy in the Wichita area is about \$350,000 per year. By 1999, the cost of such therapy will increase by approximately 25%. It is anticipated that one of the benefits of this new equipment is that costs for this treatment will decrease. Linear accelerators are the latest technology for delivering high-energy radiation therapy without the use of radiation sources such as cobalt which deplete over time and require special handling.

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