

Smilow Update: April 21, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Radiation Oncology Systems

On Tuesday, April 20, the Elekta Radiation Oncology Information System was compromised by a cyber-attack and consequently, all Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) radiation therapy treatment locations are currently unable to treat patients. This is a widespread software issue affecting all Elekta clients who are on the same cloud platform as the YNHHS, including approximately 42 hospitals and health systems.

- As a result of the software compromise, all radiation oncology patient treatment appointments across the YNHHS were cancelled for Tuesday, April 20 and Wednesday, April 21, and will be rescheduled. Patient appointments will continue to be cancelled until the system is fully operational. Impacted patients have been called and will be sent a letter by email on Thursday, April 22.
- YNNH's IT team is highly skilled and focused on the security of our systems. We have an established backup plan for Radiation Oncology systems. Unfortunately, the current malicious attack on the software systems at Elekta has rendered both our current system and our backup plan unusable. YNHHS ITS is diligently working with Elekta to validate and restore data, and to ensure our systems have the highest level of security and are less vulnerable to future interruptions.
- The timeframe for implementation of an effective solution is uncertain but is likely to take until Monday, April 26.
- For patients in need of urgent treatment, our physics and radiation oncology teams are establishing protocols to allow for manual treatment planning and delivery. The Smilow Radiation Oncology Medical Directors are actively reviewing the current patient lists and triaging patients for urgent treatment planning this week.
- Our Gamma Knife and HDR Brachytherapy Treatments remain available and on schedule.

Providing our patients with safe, timely treatment and care is our foremost priority and we have dedicated all available resources to ensuring our Radiation Oncology teams are back online quickly and able to reschedule and treat our patients. We are also conducting a full evaluation of this event to improve the security and resiliency of our systems.

Please reach out to **Peter Glazer, MD, PhD**, Chair of Therapeutic Radiology, **James Yu, MD, MHS**, Associate Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director, Smilow Radiation Oncology, or **Lynn Wilson, MD, MPH, FASTRO**, Executive Vice Chair and Director of Clinical Affairs for Therapeutic Radiology, with any questions or to discuss urgent clinical concerns.

Best regards,

Nita Ahuja, MD, MBA, FACS

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