This is the University of Vermont College of Medicine, Department of Surgery’s new informative newsletter. When a new surgeon comes on board, or a new procedure is offered, we want to quickly convey this important information to all of the area’s referring physicians so that they have the most up-to-date and complete knowledge of all the services we offer here at UVM and Fletcher Allen Healthcare. So, when this mailer with the blue header shows up in your mail, know that it contains information you can use!

Sincerely,

Marion Couch, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS
Interim Chair, Professor

For more information please contact the Department of Surgery at:
Department of Surgery, Fletcher House 311, 111 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: 802-847-5354  Fax: 802-847-5579

In This Issue: The Skin and Soft tissue Surgical Oncology Program
The Skin and Soft tissue Surgical Oncology Program

NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

The Department of Surgery at Fletcher Allen Health Care is announcing the Skin and Soft Tissue Surgical Oncology Program. Dr. Ted James, director of the program, states that the intended goal is to provide expertise in the surgical evaluation and management of skin cancers and soft tissue tumors in an academic, multidisciplinary setting.

The Skin and Soft Tissue Surgical Oncology program offers scheduled and same-day (walk-in) service for patients requiring evaluation of suspicious moles, skin lesions or soft tissue growths involving the head, neck, trunk or extremities. Patients will be able to have concerning lesions immediately biopsied and sent for pathological evaluation. Referrals for additional management including high-risk screening will also be available.

The clinic provides ultrasound evaluation to allow physicians to perform real-time imaging of masses and assist with image-guided biopsies. Fine needle aspiration together with on-site pathology/cytology allows for rapid results of biopsies; often immediately. Minimally invasive core-needle biopsies are also offered, which can spare patients a surgical procedure for diagnosis.

Definitive surgical therapy for confirmed malignancies can also be accomplished in this setting. Patients have the convenience of a surgical procedure room located within the clinic for outpatient/ambulatory surgical procedures. Dr. James states, “The feedback we have received from patients has been very positive. They like the convenience of having their initial evaluation, biopsy, and surgical procedure all at one place. Our nurses are certified in patient navigation and have operating room training, making them an indispensable asset to our patients.”

The program hopes to facilitate the early detection and treatment of skin and soft tissue cancers, especially melanomas. Vermont has the second highest annual incidence of melanoma diagnosis in the United States. Patients found to have cancer will be treated in a multidisciplinary setting with a team of experts including certified surgical oncologists, medical oncology, and radiation oncology. The clinic also works closely with dermatologists, radiologists, pathologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, as well as specialists in physical therapy and rehabilitation at Fletcher Allen Health Care. The Skin and Soft Tissue Surgical Oncology program takes a collaborative, team-based approach to patient care.

Dr. Ted James, Director of the Program

The Skin and Soft Tissue Surgical Oncology Program functions within the Surgical Oncology Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care. Drs. Seth Harlow, Michelle Sowden, David Krag, and Ted James comprise the surgical oncology team. The surgical oncology center offers the latest therapeutic technologies (e.g. sentinel lymph node biopsy), cancer research and clinical trials. Experienced nurse navigators help patients coordinate all aspects of their care. The clinic also partners with the Cancer Patient Support Program offering psychological support, dietary counseling, exercise programs, and social services for cancer patients. Emphasis is placed on comprehensive, holistic cancer care including patient education, cancer prevention, wellness and survivorship.

Dr. James is a board certified surgeon with added training and specialization in surgical oncology. He completed his fellowship at Roswell Park Cancer Institute before joining the division of surgical oncology at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

For more information please contact the Department of Surgery at:

University of Vermont College of Medicine
Department of Surgery
Fletcher House 311
111 Colchester Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401

Phone: 802-847-5354
Fax: 802-847-5579

Skin Cancer
Basal Cell Carcinoma
Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Melanoma
Merkel Cell Carcinoma
Excisional Biopsy of suspicious moles

Soft Tissue Tumors
Extremity Masses
Abdominal Wall Tumors
Extremity and Trunk Sarcoma
Lumps and soft tissue growths