

GammaPod

What is it? What should I expect?

...max 5 there might be files left in the dos mex 5 folder.
...to a different location.
..._dlla is related to the dos mex install and is required
...DO NOT DELETE OR REMOVE THIS FOLDER.
...Restricted Privileges can run dos mex 5 under Windows.
...just launch it at least once. The first launch generates
...which completes the install.
...mex 5 and then install dos mex 5 with backup in
...then it was originally installed in, you will need to move
...launcher from the windows path environment variable. Do
...click on the My Computer
...Environment Variables, check
...remove the old path to

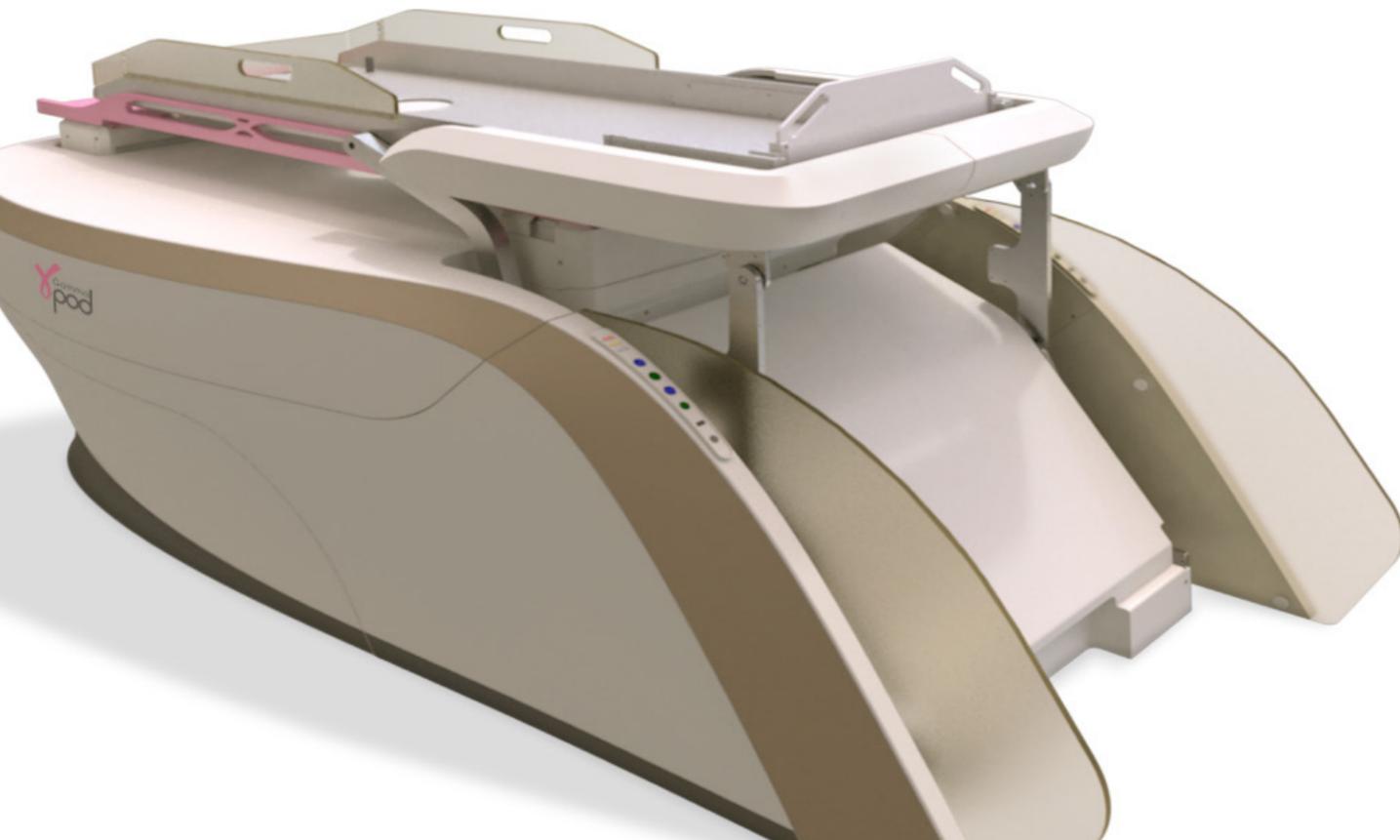


GammaPod

At UT Southwestern's Center for Breast Care, our radiation oncologists have pioneered techniques for delivering radiation to the breast while sparing the heart from excess radiation, as well as a number of advanced and innovative clinical protocols, such as the CyberKnife. In addition, clinical studies are being conducted that are defining the next standard of care in breast cancer treatment. Another dimension has been added to the available comprehensive breast care – the GammaPod, the first stereotactic body radiation (SBRT) system optimized for the treatment of breast cancer.

What it is

UT Southwestern is the first center in Texas and the second center in the world to offer the GammaPod. The use of this new, patient-friendly device has the potential to improve patients' quality of life by lowering toxicity and enhancing the overall appearance of the breast. Standard breast irradiation is generally well-tolerated, but can be inconvenient with the extended course of required daily treatments. With the GammaPod, treatment can be decreased to just one to five fractions over a much shorter period of time.



What to expect

Before a treatment plan can be prepared, patients will be fitted by trained specialists of the GammaPod team with a vacuum-assisted, breast cup system each day. The breast cup adheres noninvasively to the breast and is composed of three different parts: the inner cup, outer cup, and flange.



Patients are custom-fit with an appropriately sized inner cup that is joined to an outer cup containing an embedded stereotactic fiducial wire via a silicone flange. There are three sizes of outer cups and 28 sizes of single-use inner cups available for patients. Stable immobilization is provided from an attached suction pump that evacuates the air from between the cups. The entire fitting process takes 20 – 30 minutes.

With the suction pump turned on and secured to the breast, the patient is taken for a CT scan where images are obtained for treatment planning. After CT, patients are escorted to the GammaPod machine where they are positioned comfortably on the couch with the assistance of a patient loader. Treatment planning will take approximately 10 – 15 minutes. During the entire process, the suction pump stays in place; suction is not broken until treatment is finished.

The breast cup fits through an aperture in the treatment couch and is secured into place. Prone positioning for breast cancer radiotherapy offers multiple benefits, including limiting the dose of radiation to the heart and lungs.

During treatment, a multisource Cobalt-60 stereotactic radiotherapy system continuously rotates, creating a multitude of beam angles that converge to create an intense focal spot where the full dose is delivered to the target – all while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. A separate plan will be created for each day of treatment. Once treatment is completed, the breast cup and suction pump are removed. Delivery of the treatment takes approximately 15 – 20 minutes.



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To schedule an appointment or to learn more about the GammaPod, contact us at:

- **Phone**
(214) 645-8525
- **Website**
utswmed.org/conditions-treatments/gammapod/

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