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News Release

www.pennstatehershey.org Tuesday, June 26, 2012

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MEDICAL CENTER NOW USING NEW GAMMA KNIFE RADIOSURGERY SYSTEM

Perfexion system to enhance treatment of tumors and neurological disorders **HERSHEY, PA**—Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center this week unveiled new equipment that enhances its abilities to use radiosurgery to target brain tumors and functional disorders. The Medical Center has begun using Leksell Gamma Knife® PerfexionTM technology, which replaces its previous Gamma Knife system.

The new system allows the surgical team to streamline the set-up for such procedures, perform radiosurgery more quickly and efficiently and treat multiple tumors during a single session. Fewer than 70 health care providers in the United States use Gamma Knife Perfexion technology, and Penn State Hershey is the first in central Pennsylvania to do so.

Gamma Knife radiosurgery uses a single dose of radiation instead of a surgeon's scalpel to treat a wide range of diseases, including both benign and malignant tumors, Parkinson's disease, vascular malformations and lesions that cause epilepsy. The radiation is delivered in 192 beams precisely focused on the treatment area.

"Penn State Hershey's neurosurgeons and radiation oncologists are among the most skilled and experienced in the country in the use of focused radiation to treat brain tumors and other diseases of the nervous system," said Dr. Robert E. Harbaugh, director, Penn State Hershey Neuroscience Institute and Distinguished Professor and chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. "The new Perfexion technology will make radiosurgery the preferred option for a wider range of tumor patients and will reduce treatment time for all patients."

Care for patients who undergo Gamma Knife radiosurgery at Penn State Hershey involves a team of neurosurgeons, radiation oncologists, medical physicists and nursing staff.

Since no incision is made in a Gamma Knife procedure, the risk of surgical complications is low. Treatment is much shorter than conventional surgery and causes only minor discomfort. Also, the patient leaves the hospital the day of the procedure – compared with a typical stay of two weeks or more for traditional brain surgery.

Founded in 1963 through a gift from The Milton S. Hershey Foundation, **Penn State**Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is one of the leading teaching and research hospitals in the country. The 491-bed Medical Center is a provider of high-level, patient-focused medical care. The Medical Center campus also includes Penn State College of Medicine (Penn State's medical school), Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute, and Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital—the region's only children's hospital. The Medical Center campus is part of Penn State Hershey Health System, which also includes the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute, Penn State Hershey Rehabilitation Hospital, and other specialty facilities.