

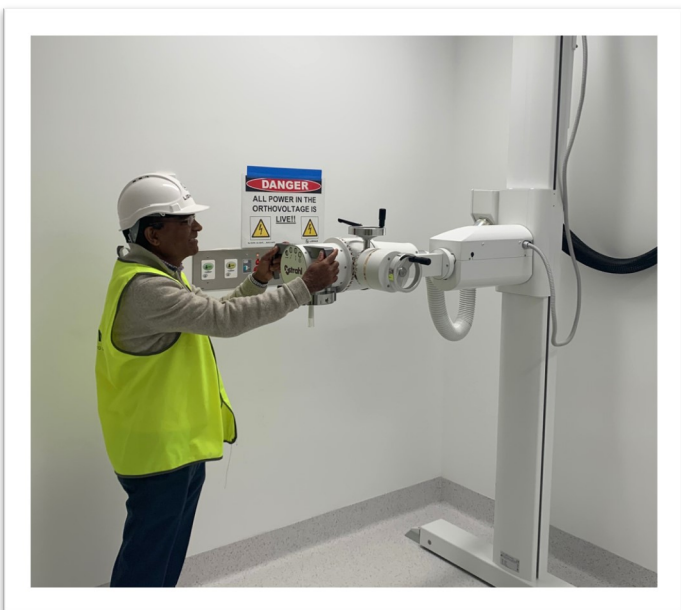
Orthovoltage at Dubbo

When the Western Cancer Centre opens later this year, it will feature an orthovoltage unit. Orthovoltage therapy is a type of radiation treatment for skin cancers. We spoke with Dr Florian Honeyball to find out more.

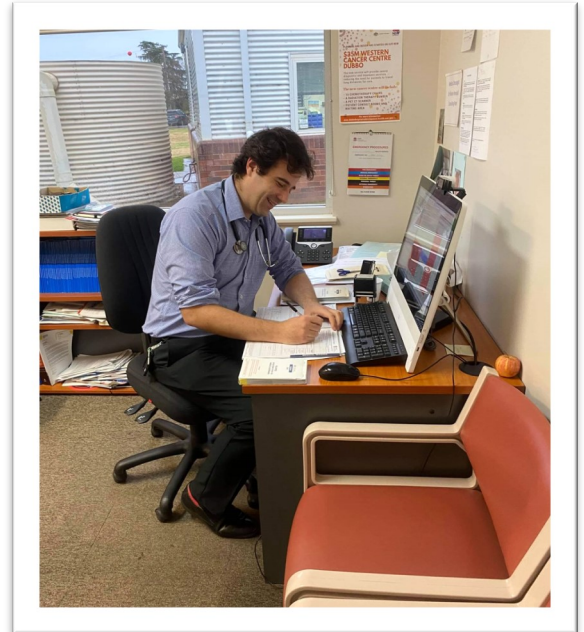
How will the new orthovoltage unit benefit patients?

The oncology team was really keen to include orthovoltage in the new cancer centre because it is an important option for cancer patients. It is used to treat skin cancer in delicate and sensitive areas of the body such as the nose, eyelids and ears. Skin cancer is relatively common in our district because of our hot, sunny climate.

Orthovoltage provides patients with an effective alternative to surgery, which can sometimes cause scarring. The treatment is usually a two-four week program of radiation therapy, tailored to the patients individual needs.



Chief Medical Physicist, Dilli Banjade with Dubbo Hospital's new orthovoltage machine.



Dubbo Hospital Oncologist, Dr Honeyball in his office.

Can orthovoltage be used instead of traditional radiation therapy?

The radiation energy levels in the orthovoltage machine are not as high as the linear accelerator which is most commonly used in radiation treatment. That means it can only be used on smaller cancers located on the surface of the skin.

What does orthovoltage mean for staff in the new Western Cancer Centre?

Orthovoltage offers essential training and career development for therapists, registrars and medical physicians working in oncology.

Having orthovoltage in Dubbo will encourage more students to study here and help us attract and retain staff. It's a great outcome for everyone!

Construction of the Cancer Centre is nearing completion and scheduled to open in the coming months. It will include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, consultation rooms, a wellness space and PET Scanner for advanced diagnostics.

