



## **THE GAMMA KNIFE SURGERY WITHOUT A SCALPEL**

**Benjamin H. Venger, MD, FACS**

Imagine operating on tumors or blood vessels inside the brain without even making an incision! Science fiction... no actually its scientific fact. In the next two months, the Western Regional Center for Brain and Spine Surgery will begin patient treatment in our new Gamma Knife Radiosurgery Center. We are one of only fifty centers in the United States and Canada offering such care.

Currently, in each of our Tri-State offices, patients are now being evaluated who possibly may benefit from Gamma Knife surgery.

What's different about the Gamma Knife? Rather than surgically removing abnormal areas of the brain, the Gamma Knife focuses 201 radiation sources on the area to be treated. Simply put, the abnormal tissue is given a single treatment, and over the next few weeks to months, the abnormal area "melts away". Unlike other radiation therapy, only the treated area receives significant radiation, sparing the surrounding brain tissue. Not only is just one treatment necessary, but patients will not experience the fatigue, skin discoloration, dryness, or hair loss commonly seen with traditional radiation treatments.

Could you, a family member, or a friend, benefit from Gamma Knife surgery? Not everyone is a suitable candidate. The Gamma Knife is most commonly used to treat both cancerous and non-cancerous tumors in the brain, as well as certain areas of abnormal blood vessels (arteriovenous malformations or AVMs). Many of these had been thought to be "inoperable" by surgery. Recent research also suggests that the Gamma Knife is also effective in the treatment of facial pain (trigeminal neuralgia or tic delaroux), certain forms of epilepsy and tremor diseases (Parkinson's disease).

If you, or someone you know may benefit from Gamma Knife surgery, call us at (800) 334-0878 for an appointment in either our Laughlin, Needles, Bullhead, Kingman or Lake Havasu offices. Drs. Venger, Anson and Duke, as well as the rest of the Western Regional Center for Brain and Spine Surgery is pleased to provide the River Cities with not only convenient appointments, but also the most modern and up to date technology seen anywhere in the country. We are always committed to your comprehensive neurosurgical and spine care.