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**NEW PROCEDURE THAT OFFERS HOPE FOR LIVER CANCER PATIENTS  
NOW AVAILABLE LOCALLY ONLY AT METHODIST SPECIALTY AND TRANSPLANT  
HOSPITAL**

According to the American Cancer Society, 19,150 new cases of liver cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2007. More than 16,000 people will die from these cancers and the numbers are expected to grow. One of the reasons is the increase of hepatitis C, which can lead to hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the most prevalent form of primary liver cancer. Primary liver cancer originates in the liver and has not migrated from another part of the body to the liver.

Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital is the first hospital in the area to offer a new outpatient treatment for primary liver cancer patients who cannot be treated with surgery. The treatment, called TheraSphere®\* Yttrium-90 microspheres, uses tiny radioactive glass beads, or microspheres, that contain yttrium-90, to deliver radiation that attacks and destroys cancerous tumor cells in the liver. The tiny glass microspheres, about one-half the diameter of a human hair, attack cancerous tumors in the liver while minimizing the impact on healthy tissue. Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital is one of only 41 sites in the nation approved to administer TheraSphere and the only site in the South Texas region.

TheraSphere offers important benefits to patients. Unlike chemotherapy, TheraSphere has few side effects. Patients rarely experience the fatigue, nausea and vomiting usually associated with high-dose, systemic chemotherapies. TheraSphere is also minimally embolic in that it does not prevent blood flow through arteries resulting in less toxicity and pain to the patient. The therapy is ideal for patients where surgery, transplantation or tumor ablation is not a viable option. In addition, it can be used to “downstage” tumors by shrinking them, thus making the patient eligible for surgery or transplantation.

The procedure can be performed on an outpatient basis in the hospital's radiology suite. Patients remain conscious throughout the treatment. The interventional radiologist injects the TheraSphere into the main artery of the liver using a small catheter. The radioactive glass beads are delivered directly into the liver tumor via its blood supply. The radiation destroys the tumor cells from within the tumor with minimal injury to the healthy liver tissue.

Michael Middlebrook, M.D., and board-certified interventional radiologist, administers TheraSphere at Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital. To date, the procedure has been used to treat more than 2,000 patients in the United States. Two patients have been treated at Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital in San Antonio.