Hitachi Particle Therapy Solution

Particle therapy selected by global leaders

Particle therapy is one of the most advanced forms of cancer treatment. The delivery of high dose to a target with high precision and reduced side effects are the primary qualities that make this therapy so unique. Refining the technology and expanding its accessibility to more cancer patients did not happen overnight. Years of research and development, a broad range of technical and clinical experience, and collaborative work with world-class hospitals and cancer centers have given Hitachi a reputation for providing the medical community with the highest level of quality, exceptionally high clinical availability and cutting-edge innovations in particle therapy.

Discover why leaders in cancer therapy across the globe have selected Hitachi as a long-term partner to help patients fight cancer.

What is particle therapy?

For over 50 years, the physical advantages of charged particles in cancer therapy have motivated the medical community to advance the clinical application of particle therapy. It can maximize radiation dose to tumor sites while sparing adjacent healthy tissues, and is especially effective in treating many rare cancers, especially pediatric cancers. Particle beams enter the body releasing small amounts of energy until reaching the tumor site, where the particle stops and deposits the vast majority of its energy over a very short distance. As a result, short-term and long-term side effects in uninvolved tissues and organs are reduced or avoided, unlike external beam radiation treatment using X-rays. Given the potential for a more durable cure and better quality-of-life following cancer treatment, it is easy to understand why the number of particle therapy centers and patients seeking particle therapy is steadily increasing.
Ultra High Precision Beam Control Technology

Hitachi’s technical advantages are based on its incomparably precise beam control technology – resulting from the continual refinement of electromagnet and synchrotron accelerator design since the 1970’s. Leveraging its core strength, Hitachi has collaborated with customers to develop market-leading innovative technology, optimized to meet operational and clinical needs.

Intensity Modulated Particle Therapy
Hitachi was first to introduce FDA 510(k) cleared and clinically implemented scanning technology to the US market. Scanning beam technology is today’s new standard in precision beam delivery. Hitachi’s spot scanning system is used to deliver Intensity Modulated Particle Therapy (IMPT) – an advanced form of particle beam treatment. Hitachi particle therapy systems have treated more than 60,000 patients to date, many with Hitachi’s industry leading, clinically proven IMPT.

Real-time image Gating for Motion Management
Irradiation of targets that move due to respiration or other factors has posed a challenge especially with high-precision scanning beams. Hitachi and Hokkaido University collaborated to develop Real-time image Gated Particle Therapy (RGPT) – an innovation that enables high dose beam delivery to moving tumors while sparing surrounding healthy tissues and organs.

Gantry-mounted CBCT
Precise patient alignment and assessment of anatomy changes require high-resolution imaging of the tumor region at the time of treatment. Gantry-mounted Cone Beam CT, co-developed with Hokkaido University, provides 3D images of patients in the treatment position. Alignment software and robotics enable automatic patient positioning - dramatically increasing the precision of irradiation when used with Hitachi’s beam control technology. CBCT is a key element in the implementation of adaptive therapy.

Power-efficient and Clean Synchrotron
Hitachi has developed synchrotron accelerators conscious of our customers’ needs to operate the system safely and efficiently with peace-of-mind throughout its lifetime.

Lower power consumption
The synchrotron can supply the exact beam energy required for treatment on demand because it varies the energy electronically. This means it operates more efficiently and consumes less power, lowering operational utility costs.

Better maintenance ability
The synchrotron requires no degrader for energy changes. This drastically reduces neutron generation and enables immediate access to the system for urgent maintenance with almost no waiting time for cool-down.

Easier decommissioning
A particle therapy system is expected to have a 20 to 30 year useful life. Although sometimes overlooked, it is prudent to give some thought to the system’s end-of-life during the equipment acquisition planning phase. Disposal of radioactive materials will need to be addressed. The actuation of materials is almost negligible with the synchrotron, giving owners the peace of mind that system decommissioning makes no lasting impact on the building and land, and waste disposal costs are minimized.
Reliable Solution

From system installation to daily operation and system maintenance, Hitachi, with over 25 years of experience with particle therapy, has continually refined support services to ensure owners of highly reliable system operation. Continuous improvement has led to on-time installation, smooth/stable ramp-up, and excellent system uptime.

99% System Uptime
With proven system availability of 99%, Hitachi is proud of its strong and successful system operation experience. Our high standards of engineering and manufacturing quality coupled with seamless teamwork between the on-site maintenance team and our 24/7 remote maintenance service yields industry-leading reliability so customers focus on treating patients.

Dedicated Customer Training
Utilizing a vast user network comprised of the world's top particle therapy leaders, new Hitachi customers receive expert staff training before treatments begin. In addition to on-site training, Hitachi provides the support to open the facility with confidence and maximize operational success.

Upgrade Support
Upgrades to expand the functionality of the system are developed and proposed throughout the lifetime of the system. As innovations are introduced, Hitachi customers are ensured that their technology investment will always be state-of-the-art.
Versatility in Proton Therapy

Hitachi is focusing on the development of technology to enhance versatility in proton therapy, aiming to expand treatment applications according to the needs of customers. Current Hitachi customers provide patients with a wide range of treatments utilizing today’s most advanced applications – Intensity-Modulated Proton Therapy (IMPT), Real-time Gated Proton Therapy (RGPT) and Cone Beam CT imaging for precise patient positioning and adaptive therapy.

Facility Solutions for Proton Therapy
- Single Room for lower initial investment cost and compact size
- Expandable separating the investment cost into phases while having the capability of more economically adding additional treatment rooms in the future with increased patient demand
- Multi-room for larger volumes of patient treatments, and specialized rooms (pediatric, eye, fixed)

Treatment Room Type Lineup
- Standard 360-degree Gantry - Non-coplanar irradiation available with its wider opening for vertex irradiation. CBCT equipped as a standard feature.
- Compact 360-degree Gantry - CBCT mounted on gantry is a standard feature for 2D and 3D CT imaging at isocenter.
- 190-degree Gantry - “Half Gantry” type with wider treatment space. Hitachi has developed interfaces to accommodate customers with both in-room CT and C-arm CBCT.
- Fixed Room - Beam irradiation angle is fixed in the horizontal and/or vertical direction.

World-leading Carbon-ion Therapy

Most SELECTED Carbon-ion Therapy Technology
Developed with the National Institute of Radiological Sciences in Japan, Hitachi’s Carbon-ion therapy system has the largest market share (33%) in numbers of facilities (in operation and under construction), and a proven track record, having treated 75% of all patients that have received Carbon-ion therapy in the world.

Carbon-ion Therapy System
Due to its larger mass, Carbon-ions have 3x higher relative biological effectiveness (RBE) than photons or protons. Higher RBE means that patients need fewer fractions to administer the same amount of radiation dose with Carbon-ion therapy, and Carbon has demonstrated greater effectiveness on radio-resistant tumors.
Hitachi has been supporting five Carbon-ion therapy facilities worldwide. The latest project, Osaka Heavy Ion Therapy Center, Japan, successfully started operation in October 2018.

Hybrid Therapy System
Utilizing decades of experience, Hitachi has integrated technologies to offer a hybrid therapy system, capable of irradiating with proton and Carbon. In May 2019, Hitachi was awarded a contract to deliver the first hybrid system outside Japan by Xuzhou Proton and Heavy Ion Hospital, China. Furthermore, Hitachi can also offer systems to generate beams for other ions for future clinical applications or for research purposes, according to customer needs.
Hitachi holds user meetings annually with the global particle therapy leaders who selected our proton, carbon, and hybrid solutions. Here, we discuss the most advanced clinical and operational experiences and objectives and fine-tune the Hitachi R&D roadmap to enhance existing systems and integrate new capabilities into the future product and technology pipeline. It is a highly valued exchange of ideas, providing a unique forum and opportunity to Hitachi’s innovations in particle therapy.

Discover the right particle therapy solution for your patients and join Hitachi’s global particle therapy network of leading radiation oncology.