

# GAMMA KNIFE PERFEXION

## A “Perfect” Choice to Treat Brain Tumors

“Last night, I dreamt that four paramedics wanted to take me to the hospital,” Edye Tenner told her husband one morning in April 2011. “It wasn’t a dream,” he said.

The night before, Edye and her husband were watching television when he noticed she suddenly became unresponsive. Concerned about her behavior, he called 911.

The results of an MRI revealed that Edye had two meningiomas—benign tumors that come from the meninges (or dura), the tough outer covering of the brain just under the skull.

Relieved that doctors caught it before anything more serious happened, Edye began researching neurosurgeons. That’s when she discovered Shabbar Danish, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Neurosurgery at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Director of The Gamma Knife Treatment Center and Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJ).

“He is one of the top neurosurgeons in the Tri-State area,” she said. “I got an appointment with him right away. He was extremely professional, informative and caring about my condition.” Two more MRIs revealed that one of Edye’s meningiomas had grown in size. After carefully reviewing her options with Dr. Danish, Edye decided to move forward with his suggestion—Gamma Knife Surgery.

Gamma Knife Surgery is a noninvasive tool specifically designed to treat brain conditions. Despite the name, no knife or blades are used during the procedure. Instead, the technology uses radiation. The approach is known as radiosurgery and focuses radiation directly and precisely on the targeted area of the brain without affecting surrounding healthy tissue.

Over the years, gamma knife has been refined and improved with advances in engineering radiation physics, robotic controls and computerized treatment planning. Robert Wood Johnson is home to Perfexion, the latest version of the technology.

“The Perfexion is the only machine that was developed just for the brain,” Dr. Danish explained. “What used to take an hour or more on the older models can now be accomplished in half the time.”

Also, for patients who are being treated for benign brain tumors, it’s important that other parts of their body are not exposed to radiation to reduce the potential for other malignancies. Dr. Danish explained that with Perfexion, radiation fall-off is 100 times less than other technologies.

“Knowing that gamma knife is the right tool is not enough,” he also said. “Patients must be treated with this more advanced technology.”

According to Dr. Danish, RWJ has stood behind technological advances in neuroscience. “The hospital made a commitment to the brain which is why we have this technology,” he said.

As for Edye, her surgery was a success. “I couldn’t have asked for a better team,” she said. “The staff at RWJ relieved all my fears and concerns. I was in and out of surgery with no pain. I had no aftereffects and a recent MRI showed the tumors shrunk.”

“A successful procedure is not a one-man show. It’s a team effort,” Dr. Danish explained. “I challenge any other hospital to provide the same level of care that patients receive at RWJ.”

Visit [www.rwjh.edu/gamma](http://www.rwjh.edu/gamma) or call 1-888-MD-RWJUH.