

erable and untreatable cancerous tumors are now able to receive this precise radiation treatment since its installation in late March.

CyberKnife uses robotics to continually adjust the size and shape of tumor-killing radiation, delivering pinpoint precision and accuracy. Combining image-guidance technology and computer-controlled robotics, this noninvasive treatment greatly improves traditional radiosurgery, which has been in use for more than 30 years.

With an estimated total project cost of \$6 million, including an expansion of the Cancer Center and robot installation, CyberKnife was acquired through a partnership of ThedaCare and N.E.W. Robotic RadioSurgery Group, a group of 22 independent physicians who treat various forms of cancer.

In addition to the CyberKnife radiosurgery system, the Siekman Cancer Center also has the TomoTherapy HI-ART system and the Varian IMRT (intensely modu-

lated radiation therapy) system to offer cancer patients a wide variety of radiation therapies.

Sharper vision after cataract surgery

Although cataracts are the leading cause of blindness worldwide and 20.5 million Americans over the age of 40 have cataracts, in most cases vision loss from cataracts is reversible. Cataract surgery is one of the safest and the most frequently performed surgeries — approximately 1.5 million a year in the U.S. A new generation of lens implant has been developed and



We can correct several refractive problems in one operation.

Michael P. Vrabec
Valley Eye Associates

approved for use in cataract surgery.

Michael P. Vrabec, M.D., FACS, a board-certified ophthalmologist with Valley Eye Associates, is the first physician in Northeast Wisconsin to implant the new Alcon AcrySof® Toric Intraocular Lens, a modification of its predecessor, the AcrySoft single-piece IOL, the most widely used (25 million) implant worldwide.

Following removal of the clouded natural lens (cataract), a soft plastic artificial lens is inserted in the eye as a replacement. Previously this lens would allow patients to see only at a distance, requiring them to need >> reading glasses or bifocals. By using the new Alcon IOL, "we can correct several refractive problems in one operation," says Dr. Vrabec. Valley Eye Associates has offices in Appleton and Oshkosh.

Approved for use by the Federal Drug Administration in September 2005, the new Alcon IOL is convex on both sides and is folded prior to insertion and positioning in the posterior chamber of the eye. The lens gently unfolds after surgical insertion in the eye, thereby restoring vision.