

IN THE MEDIA LIVING IN MONMOUTH

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Gancer Gare

Innovative Treatments and Support Care Close to Home

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Nearly 78,000 new cases of primary brain tumors are expected to be diagnosed in the US this year. "This diagnosis rate is attributable to better imaging modalities, better access to healthcare, and the availability of better instruments to enable physicians to diagnose and treat cancers earlier," says Dr. David Poulad, a board certified neurosurgeon at IGEA Brain & Spine with a specialty in neuro-oncology and the minimally invasive treatment of brain and spinal tumors.

"When I trained 15 or 20 years ago," recalls Dr. Poulad, "patients with high-grade brain lesions had a 14 to 18 month survival rate. We never give patients that kind of prognosis today. The way we treat tumors is so different and, although there is currently no cure for glioblastoma, there are much better ways to manage brain cancer and maintain a patient's quality of life."

"With today's neurotechnologies, our goal is to significantly reduce the size of the tumor while maintaining language and motor skill capabilities," says Dr. Poulad. "New procedures combine the use of the operating microscope, surgical laser and computer-guided tumor detection systems that produce CT scan and MRI images of the brain and central nervous system. We visualize tumors differently, so we remove cancerous tissue and spare healthy tissue. We can achieve success now for some brain tumors once considered inoperable."

"Patients and their families can trust this level of care now available locally," concludes Dr. Poulad. "Nearby medical centers like St. Barnabas have made an investment in both advanced technological equipment as well as the highly trained neuro-surgeons and staff who perform this often life-saving work."