

Hematology Service d'hématologie



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Cavitron or Ultrasonic Aspirator

The McGill University Health Center / Montreal Children's Hospital site has an extensive experience in the diagnosis and management of patients with brain tumors. We have 3 full-time neurosurgeons ably supported by radiation and medical oncologists. CT and MRI equipment are on-site and a PET scan will be operational at the Montreal General Hospital site early this year.

The Cavitron is an instrument, which has become essential in the practice of neurosurgery in the past twenty years. Essentially, it is an instrument, which generates high frequency sound waves that pulverize tumors. It is hooked up to an irrigating system, which will make a fluid paste of the tumor once it is pulverized. This is then suctioned into a retaining bell from which it is sent to Pathology for diagnosis. In the old days, we had to suction the tumor directly, which was possible if the tumor was soft. However, many brain tumors are hard and to excise them would frequently require extensive manipulation of the brain tissue. The Cavitron is an instrument, which destroys the tumor in place, removes it and with care quite often will respect arteries and veins, preserving function and minimizing complications.

The present Cavitron model is 10 years old and no longer in production. The disposable service packs will no longer be produced by June 2004, making our current instrument obsolete.

The new model is smaller, more compact, more easily serviced and requires no installation cost. There are disposable packs as with the present model and hence no added operational costs.

