
UU Hospital / Elekta Research: Integrating MRI, PET in Cancer Radiation Therapy



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Uppsala University Hospital (UUH) and Elekta today announced that they have signed an agreement to jointly work at the forefront of imaging in cancer care research.

With this research agreement, Uppsala University Hospital and Elekta seek to contribute to the field of personalised care by using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET).

In the future MRI potentially enables doctors to treat cancer with radiation while seeing in real time where the tumor is and correct for movement. This is limited with imaging used today.

Elekta, Philips and some of the most renowned universities in the world have started to do research into integrating MRI with linear accelerators. This research is still at its early stages, but is attracting interest from oncologists all over the world.

With this joint research agreement Uppsala intends to become the first hospital in Sweden to receive a clinical system, once it has been approved by the regulatory authorities (CE-mark). To prepare for this, UUH has already started the building of new facilities, with bunkers that are capable of receiving such treatment units of the future.

Kristina Nilsson, MD, PhD at Uppsala University Hospital commented: "We envision that by using integrated MRI, in planning and implementation of radiation therapy, future therapy will become more precise and better adjusted to both the tumor and to nearby tissues, sensitive to radiation."

Elekta CEO Niklas Savander said: "We are convinced that combining radiation therapy with MRI shall play a prominent role in the future of cancer care. Elekta is proud that Uppsala University Hospital will become a research partner in Sweden, helping us develop the clinical approach to introducing such new techniques for the benefit of patients."

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