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Talk about

Hospital's new device is big boost

The CyberKnife, one of the most technologically advanced weapons in the fight against life-threatening cancer, is currently being installed by Southeast Georgia Health System. **Editorial, 6A**

System takes positive step to maintain health

Southeast Georgia Health System is making a giant investment in the community and in the health of its people. It will soon offer one of the most technologically advanced weapons in the fight against life-threatening tumors and cancer: The CyberKnife.

The accuracy of the robotic device, installed at the Cancer Care Center at the Brunswick hospital Tuesday, is unrivaled in its accuracy in delivering radiation directly to invading cancer cells. This will mean a lot to the patients who will benefit from it. It will improve their chances at beating one of today's most dreadful diseases without zapping them of their remaining strength.

Health officials say patients can actually drive themselves home and go about their business after being treated with the device. The process, unlike what is used today, is noninvasive.

To date, only one other hospital in Georgia offers the CyberKnife technology. It's more than five hours away from

the coast, in Atlanta – too far to be away from the support of family and friends.

It will still be weeks before the technology is available here. Those who will be responsible for the procedure must be trained to use the CyberKnife, which will begin serving patients in January.

When it does go online, it will indeed be a great addition to the Cancer Care Center. Many of us have seen family members, friends and neighbors suffer through treatments. Hopefully, with CyberKnife, much of that suffering will be avoidable.

Such advances are typical of Southeast Georgia Health System. One could say, in fact, that the public has almost come to expect as much. It is the flagship in any effort to improve or watch over the community's health, a job it does not take lightly.

The health of Brunswick and the Golden Isles, as well as thousands of individuals and families in surrounding counties, is in good hands.