



A patient is prepared for a brachytherapy procedure.

## Advancing cancer care at Sunnybrook

At Sunnybrook, the future of health care is now. It is in imaging techniques that find diseases earlier, so they do less damage. It is in maintaining healthy bodies and minds. It is in treatments that are more precise, less painful, less expensive and safer than in the past. With donor support, Sunnybrook is inventing the future of cancer care.

### Sunnybrook: leaders in cancer care

With over 1.3 million patient visits each year, Sunnybrook is the largest single-site hospital in Canada, with leadership in cancer, heart, brain, trauma and high-risk obstetrics.

Sunnybrook's Odette Cancer Centre is one of the largest cancer programs in North America, with more than 250,000 outpatient visits annually. We treat the entire range of cancers and we deliver a full slate of services, including surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, and patient education and support.

Our team is also driving life-changing and life-saving cancer research. Our fundamental aim is to find cancers early and treat them with cutting-edge, minimally invasive techniques so patients can get back to their lives quickly.

### Why Dr. Taggar and patients at Sunnybrook need donor support

Dr. Amandeep Taggar, a Sunnybrook radiologist oncologist, treats hundreds of patients every year. Every day, he sees the tremendous need for better treatments for cancer - and chief among them is esophageal cancer.

Esophageal cancer is one of the deadliest there is, and it's on the rise. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, in 2020 an estimated 2,400 Canadians will be diagnosed with esophageal cancer, while 2,300 Canadians will lose their lives to it.

Current treatments involve radiation, radiochemotherapy, surgery, or a combination of all three. Still, only five per cent of people diagnosed will survive past five years, owing to this cancer's aggressive nature.

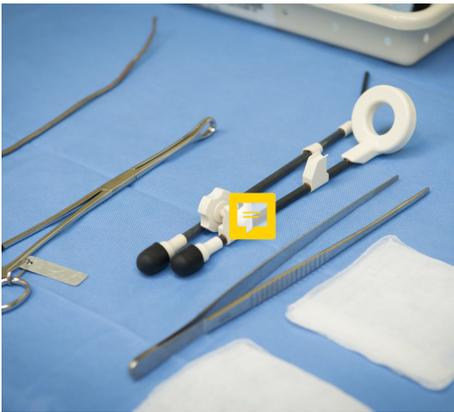
**This points to an urgent need for better treatments to manage esophageal cancer.**

### Brachytherapy: a new hope for patients with esophageal cancer?

There is another treatment that could potentially help patients with esophageal cancer: brachytherapy.

An advanced form of radiation treatment, brachytherapy involves the placement of tiny radioactive seeds directly into cancerous tissue.

**Radiation is then delivered directly to the cancerous tissue. This technique of radiation delivery allows doctors to optimally spare normal tissue from radiation injury.**



Instruments used in a brachytherapy procedure.



**“Your generous donations will have a direct impact on the lives of our patients. Thank you.”**

**Dr. Amandeep Taggar  
Radiation Oncologist  
Odette Cancer Centre**

Typically used to treat prostate, breast and gynaecological cancers, brachytherapy allows doctors to strike tumours with high-dose radiation and minimal discomfort. Sunnybrook has recently started to offer this treatment to patients with esophageal cancer. **With donor support, we can do more.**

### **How donors can transform care**

Every year, 60-70 patients with esophageal cancer are referred to Sunnybrook’s Odette Cancer Centre. Of those patients who are good candidates for brachytherapy, Dr. Taggar is often forced to refer people to centres hours away due to lack of capacity at Sunnybrook. Many patients understandably either refuse or are simply unable. Who would want to spend precious time and energy commuting hours several times a week for treatment?

**Donor funds are urgently needed for equipment that will expand our capacity to deliver this advanced care to more patients at Sunnybrook.**

As a clinician-researcher, Dr. Taggar’s team is also developing this technique to further improve care by harnessing the power of MRI. With MRI, we can see the treatment’s effect on tumours in real time, allowing us to adjust treatment if needed. Because of this, MRI-guided brachytherapy promises to be more effective

than treatment guided by ultrasound imaging, while also having less of an impact on a patient’s daily life.

With donor support for new state-of-the-art equipment to treat patients now as well as costs associated with research to further develop the treatment, Dr. Taggar and team can offer this advanced care to more patients now and in the future.

**We are urgently seeking \$300,000 to support Dr. Taggar’s top priorities for brachytherapy:**

- 4 gastroscopes and applicators: A scope is a flexible tube with a small light and a video camera attached to the end. The images from the video camera help our team to guide treatment.
- Equipment servicing and maintenance: Donor funds will ensure that our equipment stays in top form, securing optimal performance over time.
- Research Assistant support: Research assistants help with every aspect of the research process, making it more efficient so we can bring advances to patients faster.

Taken together, these three components will help Dr. Taggar deliver more brachytherapy treatments today while conducting the research needed to take this advanced technology to the next level with MRI.

**Thank you, Traditions Seniors Housing Ltd, for helping us revolutionize cancer care! A portion of sales will support priority needs within Sunnybrook’s Odette Cancer Centre.**

**Thanks to your support, we are bringing state-of-the-art equipment to Sunnybrook, supporting life-saving research and transforming cancer care for patients with esophageal cancer.**

**For more information:** Kate Porter, Advancement Officer  
Cell: 647-309-3463 / Email: kate.porter@sunnybrook.ca