

Best THE WEEK/HANSA Research Survey Superspeciality HOSPITALS-Mumbai

- 1 Lilavati Hospital & Research Centre
- 2 Bombay Hospital and Medical Research Centre
- 3 Breach Candy Hospital
- 4 Jaslok Hospital
- 5 Hinduja Hospital (P.D. Hinduja National Hospital and Medical Research Centre)
- 6 Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals
- 7 King Edward Memorial Hospital
- 8 Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute
- 9 Dr. Balabhai Nanavati Hospital
- 10 Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital

Indore

- 1 Bombay Hospital
- 2 CHL-Apollo Hospitals
- 3 Choithram Hospital & Research Centre
- 4 Sri Aurobindo Institute of Medical Sciences & Hospital
- 5 Gokuldas Hospital
- 6 Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital

Ludhiana

- 1 Dayanand Medical College & Hospital
- 2 Christian Medical College
- 3 Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals
- 4 Ludhiana MediCiti

Kolkata

- 1 Apollo Gleneagles Hospitals
- 2 Advanced Medicare and Research Institute (AMRI) Hospital
- 3 Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research
- 4 Calcutta Medical Research Institute
- 5 Medical College and Hospital Kolkata
- 6 Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences
- 7 Belle Vue Clinic
- 8 Peerless Hospital & B.K. Roy Research Centre
- 9 DESUN Hospital & Heart Institute
- 10 Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital

Lucknow

- 1 Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
- 2 Sahara Hospital
- 3 Gandhi Memorial & Associated Hospitals
- 4 Mayo hospital
- 5 Vivekanand Hospital
- 6 Ram Manohar Lohia Combined Hospital

nature tests, which now cost over ₹2 lakh as the tissues need to be sent abroad. Currently, cost is a limiting factor for patients as well as hospitals looking to invest in the latest technologies.

For instance, stereotactic body radiation therapy, a breakthrough technology highly effective in controlling early stage cancers, and limiting their spread to other parts of the body, costs ₹20 crore.

“It’s a great alternative to surgery,” says Dr A.K. Anand, chief of radiation oncology at Max Healthcare in Delhi. SBRT involves the delivery of a large dose of radiation for ablating the tumour with minimum side-effects. “The precision is quite something,” he says. Nobody understands the importance of precision as the surgeons. They appreciate the newer machines that shape the radiation beam precisely to the tumour or lesion, minimising damage to healthy tissues. They love the four-armed robot as an assistant in the OT. “It offers good visibility—something that has been a problem with laparoscopy, especially in cancers affecting the prostate, thyroid, kidney, ovary and cervix,” says Dr S.P. Somashekar, consultant surgical oncologist at Manipal Hospital in Bangalore.

The intraoperative radiotherapy machine is another coveted possession. It completes the entire radiation process—using an innovative miniature x-ray source that delivers a critical dose to the tumour bed—in only 30 minutes. There’s no need for six weeks of daily radiation therapy, thus bringing down the expenses.

That’s news worth rejoicing in a country where eight lakh people are diagnosed with cancer every year, of whom 5.5 lakh lose the battle. However, there’s an acute shortage of trained oncologists. According to a report by Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, currently, all cancer institutes in the country together produce just about 45 surgical oncologists and 43 medical oncologists annually. There is an urgent need for at least 300 specialists in both segments.

Calling for life-savers. ■