

WEYBURN THIS WEEK

Naturopath Clinic home to new technology in cancer care

Weyburn This Week

December 11, 2014 11:11 AM



Patient on locoregional hyperthermia machine at the Weyburn Naturopath Clinic.

The Naturopath Clinic, located at 138 First Street N.E. in Weyburn, has been operating for three years under the guidance of Dr. Toby Bridgman. Dr. Bridgman has been practicing naturopathic medicine for six years and within the clinic, treats issues such as hormonal and digestive concerns, pain management, and lack of energy. He uses acupuncture, intravenous and injection therapies, nutritional supplements and other natural medicines to help his patients.

Dr. Bridgman has a special interest in cancer and has spent significant time working with patients with cancer. He offers current naturopathic medical treatments to treat patients afflicted with this disease. One of these treatments is referred to as "loco-regional hyperthermia". This treatment is the latest available at the clinic, with the arrival of a new hyperthermia machine, just over two weeks ago. This treatment can be used in conjunction with chemotherapy and/or radiation, as a supplement for cancer patients.

The use of hyperthermia can be defined as the targeted application of heat energy in the treatment of diseases. The use

of hyperthermia as a form of therapy for cancer patients was first documented by Hippocrates in the treatment of breast tumors. Only at the beginning of the 19th century was it made possible to achieve this through electromagnetic fields.

Results of recent studies have shown that a combination of hyperthermia and chemotherapy has significantly stronger effects than chemotherapy alone. Similar results were concluded with the combination of the treatment when used alongside radiation.

During a treatment, the patient lies on the soft treatment bed which is divided into twenty-one equal sized fields. These fields are provided with twenty cushioned segments and one tile electrode. The position of the tile electrode can be changed so that it is positioned correctly on the area of the body to be treated. Before and after treatments, different settings can be both made, controlled or modified through the computer system attached to the machine. The system records and stores all of the patient's data during and after the process.

The machine was made possible throughout the generosity of the Ambrose family, who believe that residents of Saskatchewan should benefit from the latest technology. This technology sees patients travelling as far as, but not limited to: Berlin, Thailand, Germany, Switzerland, Korea and Greece to receive the local regional hyperthermia treatment. Currently there are 150 machines in use across the world and Weyburn is home to the third one in all of North America.

The Naturopath Clinic is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments can be made with Dr. Toby Bridgman by calling 306-891-9697.

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