New Angiography Suite and Recovery Stations at Soroka Medical Center
Soroka Medical Center

Soroka Medical Center is among Israel’s largest, busiest and most advanced hospitals. Soroka is the only major medical center in the entire Negev, serving a population of more than one million inhabitants, including 400,000 children, in a region that accounts for 60% of the country’s total land area. Soroka serves as the teaching hospital of both the Medical School of Ben-Gurion University, whose Faculty of Health Sciences is located on the hospital campus, and its Medical School for International Health.

On par with leading international institutions, Soroka specializes in areas that include early detection and treatment of breast cancer using minimally invasive procedures, non-invasive removal of malignant tumors, trauma rehabilitation of children and adolescents, pediatric infectious diseases, and more.

Each year, excellent care is provided for more than 595,000 visits at outpatient clinics; 240,000 patient visits at our Emergency Medicine Department (the busiest in the country); 83,000 inpatient admissions; over 30,000 surgical procedures; and more than 17,000 babies are born.

Soroka’s Trauma Unit is one of the largest and busiest in Israel, always on call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Soroka serves as the regional trauma center for victims of terror and for all Israel Defense Force bases in and near the Negev. This need is unfortunately constant and increasing in light of the ongoing security situation in areas bordering Gaza.

Soroka Medical Center stands at the forefront of medical progress, and is currently upgrading and enhancing research capabilities and the healthcare it provides. Soroka’s staff is dedicated to advancing research and providing optimal medical and emergency care while treating the patient as a whole human being.
Angiography and Recovery Stations: The Need

There is an ever-growing global trend of moving away from major invasive procedures that require an operating room and lengthy hospital stay, and toward imaging-guided minimally invasive procedures that can be performed on an outpatient basis.

Soroka Medical Center’s Imaging Institute provides a wide variety of imaging services, including minimally invasive procedures that require brief patient recovery in the hospital with close observation by the medical and nursing staff. These include:

- Invasive radiology
- Invasive neuroradiology
- Invasive ultrasound
- CT-guided biopsies
- Coronary CT
- Pediatric imaging procedures that require anesthesia
- Patients who require observation during their exam at the Imaging Institute

A large portion of the more than 2,000 such procedures performed annually currently take place in an inpatient rather than an outpatient setting, due primarily to the small number of appropriate post-procedure recovery stations currently available at the medical center.

In-patient hospitalization of patients for these procedures has many negative implications. It is a burden on the patient, who is in close proximity to other inpatients with various diseases, resulting in increased crowding of inpatient departments and, in turn, increased risk of infection, a growing problem in hospitals and medical centers around the world. Beyond the increased risk to patient safety and wellbeing that these hospitalizations pose, the burden and cost they add to the healthcare system as a whole are significant.

There is need to expand the invasive radiology capacity and activity at Soroka Medical Center’s Imaging Institute. Invasive radiology is a field that has continuously evolved over recent years, hand in hand with technological advancement. This field enables the imaging of blood vessels and the treatment of complex medical conditions, selective treatment of tumors through embolization and local intravenous infusion of chemotherapy, treatment of congenital and acquired vascular defects, treatment of postoperative complications or traffic accidents – all through highly precise minimally invasive procedures that reduce the rate of complications and length of hospital stays and improve patient safety.

Soroka Medical Center, which provides medical services to over one million people as the only tertiary medical center in the entire Negev, is currently able to provide invasive radiology services using only one general angiography device and one recently acquired biplane angiography device used for invasive brain radiology.
The number of general angiography devices per 1,000 residents in the southern region is the lowest in all of Israel. While overall there is one such device for every 360 people in Israel in general, in the southern region there is one device for every 622 people.

In 2017, over 1,200 angiography procedures were performed at Soroka with the general angiography device. These included:

- Diagnostic procedures of the peripheral vascular system, for example diagnosis of atherosclerosis in main arteries and vascular aneurysms, and in many cases even treatment of these conditions
- Insertion of a drain into the kidney to drain urine in cases of kidney obstruction
- Embolization to stop bleeding in the event of trauma and in other cases
- Vascular tumor embolization to facilitate safe surgery and prevent the risk of the patient bleeding to death
- Chemoembolization of tumors in cases where surgery is contraindicated
- Portal vein embolization to induce liver hypertrophy and enable surgical resection of tumors
- Image-guided radio frequency ablation of tumors
- Insertion of a central line in patients with complex and chronic diseases, including cancer patients, for:
  - Total parenteral nutrition
  - Extended chemotherapy treatments
  - Hemodialysis
  - Prolonged antibiotic treatment
- Biliary drainage
- Treatment with shunts in dialysis patients, which requires repeated catheterizations

Numerous additional procedures could be performed with this technology. The types of procedures now performed at Soroka with the angiography device are currently relatively limited simply due to the fact that there is only one such device available.

The Solution

Adding a new angiography suite and simultaneously increasing the number of recovery stations will make possible a 25% growth in the number of inpatient radiology procedures performed. The new angiography suite will enable us to serve additional patients in acute need and reduce wait times for patients in chronic need, while also significantly increasing the number of patients who are able to undergo these procedures in an outpatient setting. This will have multiple positive impacts on treatment and care as well as on patient safety and satisfaction.
Adding another angiography device at Soroka Medical Center will allow us to improve medical care for the residents of the entire southern half of Israel. It will achieve this by expanding the type and scope of procedures performed and increasing the array of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures performed with the device, including treatment of pelvic congestion syndrome and uterine fibroids, diagnosis and treatment of gastroenterology problems, and complex treatment of pain.

In addition, in 2019 the new Legacy Heritage Oncology Center and Dr. Larry Norton Institute has opened at Soroka, revolutionizing the treatment of cancer patients in the Negev. Until now, some of these patients were forced to travel to other areas of the country for treatment. The opening of the Oncology Center allows them to receive optimal service close to their homes. An additional angiography device will also make it possible to perform new procedures for cancer patients, including children. These will include, for example, site-specific chemotherapy and site-specific surgery and treatment for various tumors.

Patients who require treatments that are not currently offered at Soroka are forced to go to a medical center in a different region to receive the needed service. For example, 43% of patients in the southern region who require insertion of an artificial implant for dialysis treatments undergo the procedure at hospitals outside the region. An additional angiography suite would make it possible for these patients to receive these essential medical services from Soroka’s very highly skilled, professional, and dedicated staff close to their homes, families, and support systems.

Furthermore, the existing angiography suite is not reinforced for protection against the threat of missile attack, which is a cruel reality in the region we serve. In times of emergency, which unfortunately occur on a regular basis, we are forced to halt the diagnostic and treatment activity in the existing angiography suite in order to ensure the safety of both patients and staff. This means that in emergencies, we are forced to perform procedures on both civilians and soldiers wounded in combat in an alternative room not intended for that purpose. The additional angiography suite will be located in a protected area to ensure its smooth and continual operation even in times of emergency.

The only general angiography room currently available at Soroka (and thus in the entire Negev) is a relatively old room, where it is not possible to perform all of the procedures described above. The new angiography suite will be designed and constructed in accordance with the highest current international standards, thereby also reducing radiation exposure by more than 60%.

Following angiography procedures, the patient undergoes a recovery process at the hospital. Thus, expanding angiography activity goes hand in hand with the additional recovery stations needed at the Imaging Institute as described above.
The new angiography suite will occupy an area of 51 square meters. A new 60-square-meter reception area is also included in the project. Eight new recovery stations will occupy 110 square meters. The total area of the new angiography complex, including supporting functions, will take up 262 square meters.

Costs

Angiography Suite

- Construction: $1,060,000
- Angiography and other medical equipment: $947,000

Recovery Stations

- Construction: $1,029,000
- Equipment and furnishings: $228,000

Other medical equipment for the angiography suite and recovery stations will include anesthesiology devices, mobile ultrasound, monitors, ventilators, defibrillators, and more.

TOTAL COST OF ANGIOGRAPHY SUITE AND RECOVERY STATIONS PROJECT: $3,264,000

Donation and Donor Recognition

Soroka Medical Center is requesting a donation of $1,632,000 to develop and name the new angiography suite and recovery stations. Matching funds to provide the full cost of the project will be provided by Soroka Medical Center. Construction and receipt of medical equipment will be completed within 24 months of receipt of the donor’s gift.

Prominent donor recognition will be provided in individual donor recognition lettering on an external wall as well as in a naming plaque on site at the new angiography suite and complex. The donor will also be recognized on the central Donors’ Wall of Honor at Soroka Medical Center, and will be our honored guest at a dignified public dedication ceremony to further acknowledge their generosity.

Thank you for considering partnering with us on this vitally important project.
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