

# PRESS RELEASE

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Scot Ackerman, M.D. | Ryan Perkins, M.D. | Paul Ossi, M.D.

Contact: Alison Williams, Community Relations  
Office: 904.880.5522  
[alison@ackermancancer.com](mailto:alison@ackermancancer.com)

## Ackerman Cancer Center Offers New Spacing Device to Benefit Prostate Cancer Patients

*SpaceOAR® Hydrogel reduces side effects and improves quality of life for patients.*

Jacksonville, FL – Ackerman Cancer Center is now offering SpaceOAR® Hydrogel, a new tool proven to protect prostate cancer patients from excess radiation exposure during cancer treatment. SpaceOAR is the first FDA-approved spacing device to protect the rectum for men undergoing radiation therapy for prostate cancer. It is a one-time, biodegradable, hydrogel injection done prior to radiation treatment that lasts through the duration of treatment.

Because of the rectum's close proximity to the prostate, radiation treatment for prostate cancer patients may result in radiation hitting the rectum, which can cause adverse side effects. The SpaceOAR hydrogel temporarily pushes the anterior rectal wall away from the prostate, removing the rectum from the high dose radiation region and reducing or eliminating side effects.

"It is very important that we find ways to continually improve care for our patients. At Ackerman Cancer Center, we believe in providing precise application of radiation to tumors while, at the same time, sparing the surrounding healthy tissue and organs so that our patients can continue to live healthy and active lives," says Scot Ackerman, MD, Medical Director of Ackerman Cancer Center.

FDA approval was granted in April of 2015, following completion of a multicenter, randomized clinical trial. Participants in the clinical trial experienced significant reduction in rectal radiation dose when compared to control patients who did not receive SpaceOAR hydrogel.

For more information on prostate cancer treatment at Ackerman Cancer Center, please call 904-880-5522 or visit [www.ackermancancercenter.com](http://www.ackermancancercenter.com).

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### About Ackerman Cancer Center

Ackerman Cancer Center's mission is to be the first resource where patients turn when diagnosed with any type of cancer. Ackerman Cancer Center provides the most advanced radiation oncology treatment available, including proton therapy, in a compassionate and respectful environment. A highly trained staff of radiation oncologists and medical professionals provide convenient access of care at three locations across Northeast Florida. Learn more at [www.ackermancancercenter.com](http://www.ackermancancercenter.com).

#### JACKSONVILLE OFFICE

10881 San Jose Boulevard | Jacksonville, Florida 32223  
o 904.880.5522 | f 904.880.5533

#### AMELIA ISLAND OFFICE

Medical Office Building A | 1340 South 18th Street, Suite 103 | Amelia Island, Florida 32034  
o 904.277.2700 | f 904.277.2220

[ackermancancercenter.com](http://ackermancancercenter.com)