UMHLANGA
MOLECULAR IMAGING AND THERAPY
Nuclear Medicine Center of Excellence

FAPI Scan & Therapy

Tc-99m FAPI Scan (SPECT/CT) & Lu-177 FAPI Therapy

What is FAPI?

Cancer cells are surrounded by "support cells" called fibroblasts. These fibroblasts have a special protein (FAP).
With FAPI scans and therapy:

- We can **see the tumour more clearly**.
- We can **treat the tumour directly** by delivering safe targeted radiation.

Tc-99m FAPI Scan (Diagnosis)

- **What happens:**
  - You receive an injection in your arm.
  - After a short wait, we take pictures using a special scanner (SPECT/CT).
- **Why it's useful:**
  - Shows many types of cancers more clearly than older scans.
  - Helps doctors know exactly where the cancer is and how best to treat it.
- **Radiation exposure:** Low, similar to a bone scan.
- **Time:** Usually 2–3 hours in total.

Lu-177 FAPI Therapy (Treatment)

- **Who it's for:** Patients with cancers that show up on a FAPI scan and are not responding to other treatments.
- **What happens:**
  - You come into hospital for an IV infusion of Lu-177 FAPI.
  - The medicine delivers radiation directly to the tumour cells.
  - You may need to stay in hospital briefly for safety monitoring.
- **Treatment plan:** Usually given every 6–8 weeks.
- **Possible side effects:**
  - Tiredness, nausea, or mild drop in blood counts.
  - Rarely, kidney or liver effects (we check with blood tests).
- **Radiation safety:** Most of the medicine leaves your body within a few days. You'll get simple instructions to follow at home.

Why choose FAPI at LMC?

- More accurate scans.
- New treatment option for advanced cancers.
- Careful monitoring by our expert nuclear medicine team.

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