The use of ionizing radiation as a treatment for cancer is nowadays well established, but the traditional radiotherapy, which employs very energetic photons (X-rays), has several side effects. Some dose is deposited in healthy tissues so that the toxicity of the treatment is quite high.

**Hadrontherapy** is a new generation of radiotherapy, based on the use of charged particles (protons and ions), which can penetrate the tissue with little diffusion and deposit the maximum energy in a defined small area, so that important organs and healthy tissues can be spared more easily.

ENLIGHT, the European Network for Light Ion Hadron Therapy:
- was established in 2002;
- involves more than 300 participants from 20 European countries;
- connect European universities, institutions and industries involved in research on hadron-therapy.

The ENLIGHT network:
- gathers experts who work in the same field but come from different backgrounds:
  - physicists, physicians, biologists, engineers;
- promotes the sharing of knowledge and expertise;
- provides training for young researchers;
- identifies challenges;
- implements actions to meet future requirements in hadron-therapy;
- develops strategies to secure the funding for future projects.