

Possible Side Effects of Radiotherapy for Brain Tumor Treatment

Organ System	Acute Complications <i>(During Treatment and up to Three Months after Treatment Ends)</i>	Chronic Complications <i>(Months to Years after Treatment)</i>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute fatigue • Weight loss • Seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic fatigue • Pituitary gland damage (may require hormone replacement therapy) • Seizures
Skin & Scalp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritation • Redness • Hair loss (partial or complete) • Possible peeling and/ or blistering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent changes to the skin appearance (thickening, darkening, color change) • Altered or incomplete hair regrowth <i>(may affect part or all of the scalp)</i>
Brain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headaches • Swelling of the brain which can cause altered sensation, decreased strength, altered nerve function, and/or increased risk for seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headaches • Damage to normal brain causing alteration in ability to reason or remember, loss of strength or sensation in parts of body controlled by affected brain area
Eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye irritation • Eye dryness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataract formation • Eye dryness • Loss of vision from eye or nerve damage (rare)



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Ears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflammation of ear canal with irritation, discharge, dizziness or sense of "fullness" • Fluid buildup behind the ear drum • Decreased or muffled hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased or loss of hearing <i>(due to damage of hearing organs or from persistent fluid behind the ear drum)</i>
Nose & Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altered sense of taste or smell • Mouth sores or dryness* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altered sense of taste or smell • Decreased saliva production (rare)
Gastrointestinal (Stomach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and/or vomiting • Discomfort with swallowing* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and/or vomiting • Difficulty with swallowing*
Radiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contra-indicated for scleroderma or active systemic lupus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation-induced cancer of the skin, lining of the brain (meninges), or brain tissue (rare)

**only applies if your treatment area includes the lower or back part of the brain*

