

Side effects Head and Neck Cancer Radiation Treatment

Organ System	Early Complications (Days-Months After Treatment)	Late Complications (Months-Years After Treatment)
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute fatigue Weight loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic fatigue (uncommon) Second cancer (rare, but increased risk with continued smoking)
Skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redness Peeling and/or blistering Swelling Tenderness or pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tissue scarring, thickening, firmness (fibrosis) Coloration changes (lighter or darker) Tissue thinning
Salivary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry mouth Thick secretions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry mouth
Taste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased or altered taste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased or altered taste
Throat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain with swallowing Difficulty swallowing Need for a feeding tube 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty swallowing Need for a feeding tube
Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain Ulcerations Difficulty opening mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty opening mouth Radiation necrosis of jaw Dental problems
Neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling Tightening of muscles Changes in voice Hoarseness Swelling of voice box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tightening of muscles Changes in voice Hoarseness Swelling of voice box Decrease in thyroid function
Eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased tearing Irritation Dry eye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased tearing Dry eye Vision changes (rare) Cataract
Ears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling of fullness Irritation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased hearing
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial hair loss or thinning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facial hair loss or thinning
Nose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritation Increased discharge Dryness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dryness
Lungs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflammation Shortness of breath Cough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarring Shortness of breath Cough
Arm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nerve dysfunction (rare)