Facts vs Myths about Radiation Therapy

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Today's Agenda

- Treatment options for cancer
- Overview of radiation therapy
- Common questions about radiation therapy
- RT Answers patient education materials
Today’s discussion is informational only and should not be used in place of advice specific to your condition from your medical professional.

We will discuss treatments including surgery, chemotherapy and others. We encourage you to talk to other specialists, where appropriate, about other treatments you are considering.
Treatment Options for Cancer
• What doctors are involved with patients with cancer?

• Which types of treatments are offered by each physician?
Treatments

- Does everyone get radiation, chemotherapy & surgery?
Radiation Therapy

- What is radiation therapy?
- How does radiation therapy work?
- How often is radiation therapy given?
  - Why does it need to be given every day?
Common Questions/
Facts about Radiation Therapy (RT)
Is RT safe??
Does it make me radioactive & can I be with my family?
Can I work while getting RT and can I drive?
Does RT make me lose my hair or burn my skin?
Can I get RT more than once in my life?
What’s the difference between proton therapy and radiation (photon) therapy?
If I have to choose between RT, surgery & chemotherapy, why would I choose RT?
Does RT make me sick from the side effects?
All cancer treatments have some side effects. We map out possible effects from RT.

Your treatment team will work to minimize side effects.

RTAnswers.org
Introduction to Radiation Therapy

This 26-minute video gives you a general overview of how radiation therapy is used to treat cancer. Topics covered include what is radiation therapy, types of radiation therapy treatments, the radiation therapy treatment team, pre-treatment planning, what to expect, possible side effects, safety and caring for yourself. Additionally, you will hear from patients about their experiences.

Una introducción a la radioterapia de haz externo

Este video de 26 minutos le brinda una descripción general de cómo se usa la radioterapia para tratar el cáncer. Los temas cubiertos incluyen qué es la radioterapia, tipos de tratamientos de radioterapia, el equipo de tratamiento de radioterapia, planificación previa al tratamiento, qué esperar, posibles efectos secundarios, seguridad y cuidado personal. Además, escuchará a los pacientes contar sus experiencias. **Ver los capítulos individuales en español.**
Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in American women, according to the American Cancer Society. This year, 268,600 women and 2,670 men will learn they have breast cancer. Another 62,930 women will learn they have noninvasive (also called in situ) breast cancer. Breast cancer can often be cured. About 80 percent of all patients with breast cancer live at least 10 years after their diagnosis.
Jean Larkin - Breast Cancer Survivor

When my doctor told me I had cancer, I was shocked and terrified to the point of paralysis. I was only 66 at the time, and up to that point, I had lived a healthy life. My husband and I were enjoying an active lifestyle in retirement, working out, traveling, and watching our grandkids grow up.

And then, out of the blue, a routine mammogram revealed that I had breast cancer—putting all that at risk. I hadn't even experienced any symptoms. And to make the emotional impact even harder, my best friend was battling cancer at that time...a battle she lost, sadly.

Hearing the word cancer in the same sentence with my own name was just shocking. Honestly, I was numb with a strong fear of the unknown while I also tried to stay positive.

More Stories

Patients and caregivers have shared stories of their experience with cancer in order to help others. Read the stories below or share your story.

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Thank you.

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