### Side effects
Head and Neck Cancer Radiation Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organ System</th>
<th>Early Complications (Days-Months After Treatment)</th>
<th>Late Complications (Months-Years After Treatment)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| General      | • Acute fatigue  
              • Weight loss                                      | • Chronic fatigue (uncommon)  
                                            • Second cancer (rare, but increased risk with continued smoking) |
| Skin         | • Redness  
              • Peeling and/or blistering  
              • Swelling  
              • Tenderness or pain          | • Tissue scarring, thickening, firmness (fibrosis)  
                                            • Coloration changes (lighter or darker)  
                                            • Tissue thinning |
| Salivary     | • Dry mouth  
              • Thick secretions                                    | • Dry mouth |
| Taste        | • Decreased or altered taste                          | • Decreased or altered taste |
| Throat       | • Pain with swallowing  
              • Difficulty swallowing  
              • Need for a feeding tube                               | • Difficulty swallowing  
                                            • Need for a feeding tube |
| Mouth        | • Pain  
              • Ulcerations  
              • Difficulty opening mouth                              | • Difficulty opening mouth  
                                            • Radiation necrosis of jaw  
                                            • Dental problems |
| Neck         | • Swelling  
              • Tightening of muscles  
              • Changes in voice  
              • Hoarseness  
              • Swelling of voice box                                  | • Tightening of muscles  
                                            • Changes in voice  
                                            • Hoarseness  
                                            • Swelling of voice box  
                                            • Decrease in thyroid function |
| Eyes         | • Increased tearing  
              • Irritation  
              • Dry eye                                                | • Increased tearing  
                                            • Dry eye  
                                            • Vision changes (rare)  
                                            • Cataract |
| Ears         | • Feeling of fullness  
              • Irritation                                              | • Decreased hearing |
| Hair         | • Facial hair loss or thinning                         | • Facial hair loss or thinning |
| Nose         | • Irritation  
              • Increased discharge  
              • Dryness                                                 | • Dryness |
| Lungs        | • Inflammation  
              • Shortness of breath  
              • Cough                                                    | • Scarring  
                                            • Shortness of breath  
                                            • Cough |
| Arm          |                                                                 | • Nerve dysfunction (rare) |