

About Radiation Therapy

Like surgery, radiation therapy is a local treatment for breast cancer. It uses targeted, high-energy X-rays to stop cancer cells' ability to grow and divide. Radiation therapy aims to get rid of cancer from the breast, chest and axillary lymph nodes and to lower the risk of the cancer coming back (recurrence).

Answers to these questions will help you understand the reason for radiation therapy and help you prepare for the treatment.

Q: Why do you recommend radiation therapy? Will other therapies be needed?

A:

Q: How long will each radiation treatment take? How many treatments will I have? How soon should treatment begin?

A:

Q: Who will plan my radiation treatments? Who will give them and where?

A:

Q: How is radiation given and how long does it take? What areas of my breast will receive radiation? If I have breast reconstruction, can I still have radiation?

A:

Q: Can I come alone or should someone come with me?

A:

Q: What can I do to prepare for my treatment (i.e., wear a two-piece outfit)?

A:

Q: Will the costs of the treatment be covered by my health insurance?

A:

Answers to these questions will help you understand the possible effects of the treatment.

Q: What side effects may I expect and how long might they last? What side effects should I call you about?

A:

Q: What are the long-term risks of this treatment?

A:

Q: What should I avoid or not do during or after treatment (i.e., skin creams, lotion, underarm shaving, etc.)?

A:

Q: Can I continue normal activities (work, sex, sports, etc.) during treatment? After treatment?

A:

Q: How often are checkups and tests required after treatment ends? Which doctor will manage my care?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not provide medical advice.

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