

About Radiation Therapy

Like surgery, radiation therapy is a local treatment for breast cancer. Using 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 recurrence.

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

Q: Why are you recommending radiation therapy? Will other therapies be needed?

A:

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

A:

Q: Who will be responsible for my radiation treatments? Who will give them and where?

A:

Q: How is radiation given and how long does it take?

A:

Q: Can I come alone or should a friend or relative 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?

A:

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

A:

Q: What are the precautions or restrictions during treatment? 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 is completed and which specialist will manage my care?

A: