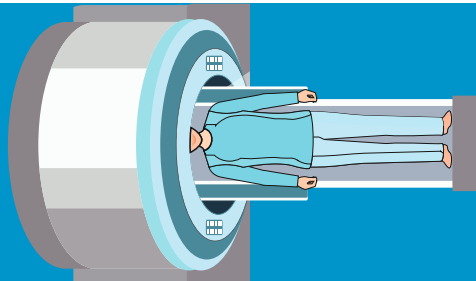


RADIATION TREATMENT PROCESS

Radiation therapy uses waves of X rays or Gamma Rays to treat cancers and other tumour conditions



1. Doctor will define the area to be treated and would complete the dose calculation process along with the medical physicists based on all clinical findings, CT, MRI & PET CT etc.
2. Post approval, you would be taken up for the 1st treatment on the given date and time.
3. You will be advised about the total number of radiation sessions by your treating doctor.
4. For those being treated to the abdominal regions, need 2-3 hours fasting; pelvis region – water protocol will be explained.
5. The treatment session will take around 10-30 minutes.
6. The radiation treatment is painless and will be administered by a machine called a Linear Accelerator which will move around you during your treatments to deliver the radiation (x-rays) and does not make you radioactive.
7. The treating staff will position you the same way you were positioned during your CT simulation session, minor adjustments in position would be done for accuracy.
8. All the treating staff/radiation therapists would leave the treatment room and control the treatment machine from the treatment console situated outside the treatment room.
9. The radiation treatment machine-linear accelerator will rotate around the patient once the machine is switched on and acquires an image to confirm the exact area to be treated, following which the machine rotates couple of times around the patient and treats the desired area.
10. If the patient has any difficulty, while the treatment is going on, they are requested to raise their hand, during which the treatment would be interrupted and the treating staff would enter the treatment room and ensure the comfort and safety of the patient.
11. Once you finish your radiation therapy treatments, you will be met by your radiation oncologist who will advise you about the management of side effects, your follow ups and medications.
12. The side effects would vary and would be different for each patient, depending on the area treated and the tolerance of each individual.
13. Adequate rest is required to overcome tiredness. Perform exercise as per your tolerance. Good intake of food and fluid is a must. You are advised to quit smoking / consuming alcohol.
14. You may develop skin reaction due to radiation treatment and this varies based on the area treated and the individual skin.
15. You can take bath or wash the treated area without vigorously rubbing over the treated area with a mild soap. Post wash, wipe with soft towel.
16. Moisturising cream may be applied over the treated area, however, this needs to be clarified from the treating doctor.
17. Avoid exposing the treated area to hot water bags / ice packs or sunlight.
18. The skin care needs to be continued for at least a month or till the skin has recovered from the radiation - related side effects.
19. Patients are advised to wear loose fitting cloth.
20. Hair loss: If you undergo treatment in the head and neck /brain regions you may lose hair. This depends on the area which is treated and may be temporary / permanent.



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