

The Radiation Experience

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Treatment Goal

The main goal of radiation treatment is to maximize cancer cell death, while avoiding or minimizing the radiation effect on surrounding healthy cells.

Radiation Delivery

External beam radiation: Uses a specialized machine called a linear accelerator outside the body.

Internal Radiation or Brachytherapy: Radiation is inserted and removed inside the body next to the tumor.

Duration

External beam radiation: Usually provided on an outpatient basis, given five days a week, for up to seven weeks.

Internal Radiation or Brachytherapy

For high-dose brachytherapy, an implant is left in the body for a short period, usually twice daily for weekly treatments. Low dose brachytherapy may require an overnight hospital stay.

Possible Side Effects

- Fatigue
- Side effects in localized area
- Depend on dosage and field size