

# Radiation Therapy for Bladder Cancer



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Bladder cancer is characterized by abnormal cell growth in the lining of the bladder, often causing blood in the urine. The accumulation of cancerous cells may lead to the formation of a tumor, and over time, these cells can potentially grow into the muscle of the bladder wall, then spread to other areas of the body. Several treatment options, such as surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy, are available for managing bladder cancer. These treatments are often used in combination to produce the best results.

### Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered when surgery is not recommended or as a strategy to preserve the bladder.
- » Radiation is a quick treatment with minimal or no pain and a short recovery time.
- » Since it is non-invasive, radiation therapy is an outpatient treatment.
- » Radiation therapy will be targeted to a specific area of the body, which allows for precise treatment of the cancer while minimizing damage to normal tissues.

### Effectiveness of Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy offers a non-invasive avenue for addressing bladder cancer, presenting an alternative to surgical procedures. Radiation is often given with chemotherapy for bladder cancer, which increases the efficacy of treatment. With short treatment sessions and minimal discomfort, radiation therapy ensures targeted cancer cell elimination with a brief recovery period.

### Side Effects

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include temporary fatigue, changes in urinary patterns, or localized discomfort at the treatment site.

Some patients have more frequent bowel movements. Other side effects may occur depending on the specific treatment area your doctor recommends.

### Conclusion

For bladder cancer, radiation therapy is a pivotal and effective treatment option, offering curative potential and symptom relief.

Many individuals choose radiation therapy for its efficacy in treating bladder cancer, and ongoing follow-up care is recommended to monitor and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.

## QUICK FACTS

Bladder cancer has a **71% survival rate**

**73** is the average age of diagnosis

**4th** most common cancer in men

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