



Radiation Therapy for Brain Cancer

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Primary brain cancer can develop from normal brain cells that start to multiply uncontrollably in the brain. Brain metastases can develop when cancer metastasizes (spreads) from another area of the body into the brain. Radiation therapy is a frequently used treatment and an important tool for treating both primary and metastatic brain tumors.

Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, offering an alternative or complement to surgical interventions.
- » 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 healthy tissue.

Effectiveness of Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy may be employed as a primary treatment for certain brain cancers. For other cases, it can be combined with other modalities such as chemotherapy or surgery. After surgical removal of a brain tumor, radiation therapy is often recommended to eliminate any remaining cancer cells and reduce the risk of recurrence.

Side Effects

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include fatigue, hair loss, skin irritation, or mild headaches. Additional considerations depend on the type of radiation being delivered. Common techniques include stereotactic radiation (SRS), intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), and whole brain radiation.

Conclusion

Radiation therapy is a vital treatment option for brain cancer, sometimes offering curative potential and at others providing symptom relief. Thousands of individuals choose radiation therapy as a key component of their treatment plan, guided by its efficacy and non-invasive nature. Continued follow-up care, including regular monitoring, is essential for brain cancer survivors to detect and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.

QUICK FACTS

Less than 1% is the probability that someone develops a primary brain cancer

Some of the **most common** cancers that spread to the brain include lung, breast, and melanoma

DID YOU KNOW?

Most brain tumors **do not** start in the brain; they are metastases from another cancer that have spread to the brain

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