

Radiation Therapy for Esophageal Cancer



QUICK FACTS

8th
most common cancer
worldwide

Esophageal cancer is
more common
among men than
among women

There are
2 subtypes
of esophageal cancer:
adenocarcinoma and
squamous cell

Huntsville: 256.319.5400

Decatur: 256.355.0370

Florence: 256.760.1150

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Esophageal cancer arises from the cells lining the esophagus, the muscular tube that carries food from the throat to the stomach. It presents significant health risks and can be challenging to diagnose and treat. Timely detection and intervention are paramount for improving outcomes and enhancing survival rates. Radiation therapy is one of the main treatment options for esophageal cancer, and it has several benefits for patients.

Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered before surgery.
- » 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

Research indicates that patients treated with radiation therapy for esophageal cancer have a substantial chance of cure, with high survival rates. Radiation therapy is often employed in combination with other treatments, such as chemotherapy or surgery, to optimize curative treatment for esophageal cancer. It is often used in advanced esophageal cancer to reduce symptoms and improve quality of life.

Side Effects

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include temporary fatigue, mild esophageal irritation, or difficulty swallowing, which can be managed with supportive care and medication.

Other side effects may occur depending on the specific treatment area.

Conclusion

Radiation therapy is a primary and effective treatment option for esophageal cancer, offering non-invasive, targeted intervention with favorable outcomes and minimal side effects.

Many individuals receive radiation therapy to improve the likelihood of successful surgery, and ongoing follow-up care is recommended to monitor and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.

www.AllianceCancerCare.com



Source: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9807450/#:~:text=Esophageal%20cancer%20is%20the%20eighth,cause%20of%20cancer%20death%20worldwide.