

# Radiation Therapy for Gynecological Cancer



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Radiation therapy is a frequently employed treatment for gynecological cancers, including conditions such as cervical, endometrial, ovarian and vulvar cancer. Utilizing high-energy radiation, this therapeutic approach aims to eradicate cancer cells and provide curative treatment.

### Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered after surgery or alongside chemotherapy.
- » 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 for gynecological cancers has a high survival rate and is much higher when patients have appropriate screening, or present for evaluation with early symptoms, such as bleeding. Radiation therapy can serve as a primary treatment or it may be combined with chemotherapy or surgery. Following surgery, radiation therapy often plays a pivotal role in preventing cancer recurrence.

### Side Effects

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include fatigue, frequent urination or burning, bowel changes, or skin irritation at the site of treatment.

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

### Conclusion

In gynecological cancer, radiation therapy is a crucial treatment option, offering curative treatment and symptom relief. Thousands of women receive radiation therapy as a key component of their treatment plan, due to its efficacy and its preservation of their quality of life.

Continued follow-up care, including regular monitoring, is essential for gynecological cancer survivors to detect and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.

## QUICK FACTS

**84,000**  
new gynecologic cancers are diagnosed each year

**60%**  
of women with gynecologic cancers will receive radiation therapy<sup>1</sup>

**99%**  
of cervical cancers are associated with the HPV virus

\*There's a vaccine that can prevent the most likely forms of cancer-causing HPV

**Huntsville: 256.319.5400**

**Decatur: 256.355.0370**

**Florence: 256.760.1150**