



# Radiation Therapy for Lung Cancer

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Lung cancer comes in many forms and typically starts in the cells lining the airways and glands of the lung. It is the second most common cancer in both men and women in the United States. Radiation therapy is a common form of treatment and can be used alone or in combination with surgery and chemotherapy to increase cure rates.

### Advantages Of Radiation Therapy:

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered as curative treatment or in combination with 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.

### Side Effects:

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include fatigue, skin irritation, difficulty swallowing, coughing, or shortness of breath. It typically does not cause any nausea or hair loss. Other side effects may occur depending on the specific treatment area.

### Effectiveness Of Radiation Therapy:

Studies have shown that patients treated with radiation therapy have a reduced risk of recurrence and improved survival rates. Radiation therapy can be used as a primary treatment for some early-stage lung cancers, or in combination with surgery and/or chemotherapy for more advanced cases. It can also be used to relieve symptoms and improve quality of life in patients with advanced lung cancer.

### Conclusion:

Radiation therapy can be an effective treatment option for lung cancer and can reduce the risk of cancer recurrence. Seventy seven percent of all lung cancer patients would benefit from this treatment according to evidence-based indications. Lung cancer survivors should continue to receive regular follow-up care, including regular scans, to detect any potential recurrence of the disease.

## QUICK FACTS

Lung cancer is the **second most common**

**cancer in both men and women in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>**

Lung cancer **accounts for**

**1 in 5**  
**of all cancer deaths<sup>2</sup>**

**1 in 16 people**

**will be diagnosed with lung cancer in the U.S. during their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>**

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