

# Radiation Therapy for Metastatic Cancer



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Metastatic cancer, also known as stage IV cancer, represents an advanced form of cancer where cancer cells have spread from their original site to other parts of the body. Metastatic cancer occurs when cancer cells break away from the primary tumor and travel through the bloodstream or lymphatic system to establish new tumors in distant organs or tissues. It can arise from any type of primary cancer, but is most common from breast, prostate, lung, melanoma, colorectal, and kidney cancer.

### Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered alongside other treatments.
- » 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 effectively controls metastatic cancer by targeting and destroying cancer cells, slowing disease progression, and alleviating symptoms. It's utilized as a primary treatment or in conjunction with chemotherapy or immunotherapy to enhance outcomes. Evidence supports its palliative benefits, offering symptom relief, pain management, and improved quality of life, often.

[www.AllianceCancerCare.com](http://www.AllianceCancerCare.com)

### Side Effects

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include fatigue or skin irritation or redness at the treatment site. Other side effects may occur depending on the specific treatment area.

### Conclusion

Radiation therapy offers significant advantages in the management of metastatic cancer, providing targeted treatment, pain relief, and symptom management while preserving overall quality of life for patients.

Follow-up care is recommended to monitor and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.

## QUICK FACTS

Accounts for

**90%**

of cancer deaths

Lung is the

**most common**

metastatic site

**623,405**

people currently live with metastatic cancer

**Huntsville: 256.319.5400**

**Decatur: 256.355.0370**

**Florence: 256.760.1150**



Source: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3597235/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3597235/); "text=Metastasis%20is%20the%20general%20term%20of%20cancer%20morbidity%20and%20mortality&text=1%20is%20estimate%20that%20metastasis%20about%2090%25%20of%20cancer%20deaths." | [cancercontrol.cancer.gov/ocs/statistics/#](http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/ocs/statistics/#); "text=There%20are%20623%20405%20people%20living,693%20452%20by%20the%20year%202025." | [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9302295/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9302295/); "text=Lung%20and%20bronchus%20cancers%20were%20the%20most%20common%20tumors%20metastatic,the%20lung%202307%20(217%25).