Radiation Therapy for Ocular Cancer

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Ocular cancer represents a diverse group of conditions affecting the eye, ranging from benign tumors to malignant growths. Causes may include genetic predisposition, environmental factors, or metastasis from distant sites. Ocular cancer presents unique challenges, but radiation therapy is a vital treatment option with numerous advantages for patients.

Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered after surgery, or as standalone treatment in place of 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

Studies demonstrate that patients treated with radiation therapy for ocular cancer have favorable outcomes, with high survival rates and long-term disease control. Post-surgery, radiation therapy proves valuable in preventing cancer recurrence and increasing cure rates. Additionally, in advanced cases, it can alleviate symptoms associated with the spread of cancer, such as pain or discomfort.

Side Effects

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include temporary fatigue, mild eye irritation, or localized discomfort at the treatment site.

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

Conclusion

Radiation therapy is a primary and effective treatment option for ocular cancer, offering potentially curative treatment with minimal side effects.

Many individuals opt for radiation therapy over surgery to preserve the eye, and ongoing follow-up care is recommended to monitor and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.



QUICK FACTS

80% 5-year survival rate

Ocular cancer accounts for < 1% of cancer diagnoses

Radiation therapy contributes to a **90%** success rate

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Source: www.cancer.org/cancer/types/eye-cancer/detectio