

Radiation Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Pancreatic cancer originates in the pancreas, an organ located beneath the stomach that plays a vital role in digestion and blood sugar regulation. It presents a formidable health challenge, characterized by its aggressive nature and often late-stage diagnosis. Radiation therapy is one of the main treatment options and it has several benefits for patients.

Advantages of Radiation Therapy

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option, typically offered after surgery or when surgery is not possible.
- » 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 plays a crucial role in treatment for pancreatic cancer, particularly if surgical resection of the tumor is not possible. It helps prevent cancer recurrence by eliminating any remaining cancer cells after surgery and reduces the risk of disease spread. It may be employed in combination with chemotherapy to optimize treatment outcomes and improve survival rates. Radiation can provide relief from symptoms caused by pancreatic cancer.

Side Effects

Radiation therapy for pancreatic cancer is an outpatient procedure with side effects that may include fatigue, nausea, appetite loss, and digestive issues.

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

Conclusion

Radiation therapy is a primary and effective treatment option for pancreatic cancer, offering a non-invasive approach with improved outcomes and minimal side effects.

Many individuals opt for radiation therapy as a part of their treatment plan, and ongoing follow-up care is recommended to monitor and address any potential recurrence or lingering effects of the disease.

QUICK FACTS

3rd
leading cause
of cancer death
in the U.S.

50%
5-year
survival rate

Pancreatic cancer
accounts for about
3%
of all cancers

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