



Radiation Therapy for Skin Cancer

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Basal and squamous cell skin cancers are the most common types of skin cancer. They are often related to prior sun exposure, and thus occur in sun-exposed areas. Skin cancers start in the top layer of skin and are often related to sun exposure. Radiation therapy is a highly effective treatment option, if a tumor is very large or is on an area of the skin that makes it hard to remove with surgery.

Advantages of Radiation Therapy:

- » Radiation therapy is a non-invasive treatment option.
- » 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 have shown that patients treated with radiation therapy for skin cancer have an excellent chance of cure with high survival rates. Radiation therapy can often cure small basal or squamous cell skin cancers and can delay the growth of more advanced cancers. It can also be used after surgery to kill any remaining small areas of remaining cancer cells that may not have been visible during surgery.

Side Effects:

Radiation therapy is an outpatient procedure with minor side effects that may include fatigue, red or tender skin changes, or hair loss at the point of treatment. Additional side effects may occur depending on the specific treatment area.

Conclusion:

Overall, radiation therapy can be an effective treatment option for skin cancer with a 90% cure rate.¹ Skin cancer survivors should continue to receive regular follow-up care, including regular skin cancer screenings, to detect any potential recurrence of the disease or new skin cancers that can arise.



QUICK FACTS

Skin Cancer is the **most common cancer**²

5.4 million skin cancers are diagnosed each year in the US²

1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70³

Huntsville: 256.319.5400

Decatur: 256.355.0370

Florence: 256.760.1150

www.AllianceCancerCare.com

Sources: ¹ <https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/basal-cell-carcinoma/bcc-treatment-options/>, ² <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/basal-and-squamous-cell-skin-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>, ³ <https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/skin-cancer-facts/>