

Radiation Therapy for Vestibular Schwannoma



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Vestibular Schwannoma (also sometimes called Acoustic Neuroma) is a benign tumor that develops on the vestibular nerve, which connects the inner ear to the brain. While typically benign, they can cause symptoms like hearing loss or facial weakness due to their location near critical structures in the brain, such as the facial nerve and brainstem. Radiation therapy, specifically stereotactic radiation, 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.
- » Radiation is a quick treatment with minimal or no pain and a short recovery time. The total treatment course for this disease is normally 5 treatments or less.
- » Radiation therapy is an outpatient treatment.
- » Radiation therapy will be targeted directly to the tumor itself, which allows for precise treatment of the tumor while minimizing effects on healthy tissue.

Effectiveness of Radiation Therapy

Research indicates that radiation therapy is highly effective in managing Vestibular Schwannomas, achieving tumor control rates similar to surgical resection while having improved rates of hearing preservation.

Side Effects

Radiation therapy for Vestibular Schwannoma is an outpatient procedure with minimal side effects during treatment that may include temporary fatigue. Other possible long term side effects are always discussed by your doctor prior to treatment.

Conclusion

For Vestibular Schwannoma, radiation therapy is an effective and non-invasive treatment option, offering precise tumor targeting and high rates of success. The decision on how to treat each patient should be made with a team of doctors that includes both surgeons and radiation oncologists. The advantage of radiation makes it an excellent choice for patients seeking comprehensive tumor management by non-invasive means and with minimal disruption to their lives. Ongoing follow-up care ensures optimal outcomes and addresses any potential long-term effects.

QUICK FACTS

1 in 100,000
are diagnosed
with Vestibular
Schwannoma

**Most commonly
occurs in ages
between
30 to 60**

**Accounts for
8%
brain tumors**

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