

Radiation Therapy

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Learning that you have cancer is a difficult experience. After a cancer diagnosis, you may feel anxious, afraid or overwhelmed. So many thoughts are running through your mind that it might be easy to forget important questions or concerns. Before choosing radiation therapy as an option for cancer treatment, make sure you understand your treatment options, expected benefits, side effects and risks.

Here are some questions to ask about radiation therapy, a common treatment for cancer. These questions can help you make important decisions about your care.

Also, you may want to bring a family member or friend with you to your doctor appointment. That person can help you ask questions and write down the information that the doctor gives you.

1. Why do I need radiation therapy? What other treatments are available instead of radiation therapy?

2. What is the goal of my radiation therapy?

3. What are the potential risks and side effects of radiation therapy? Will they go away after radiation therapy is over?

Radiation Therapy

4. What side effects should I watch out for? When should I call my doctor?

5. How often will I get radiation therapy? For how long?

6. How can I expect to feel during radiation therapy and in the weeks following?

7. Do I have time to think about my options or get a second opinion?

Where can I get more information?

The National Cancer Institute provides accurate and up-to-date information about clinical trials, cancer types, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and end of life care.

Phone: 1-800-4CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

Website: www.cancer.gov

The Rural Cancer Network (RCaN) offers other user-friendly, cancer educational handouts. For more information about radiation therapy, please see the “Radiation Therapy: Information Sheet” handout.

Website: www.ruralcancernetwork.org



Carbone Cancer Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



ruralcancernetwork.org



**Cancer Health
Disparities Initiative**

For more local information, please contact:

Place label here