

Treating Prostate Cancer with Radiation

Prostate cancer can be treated in different ways. One form of treatment is radiation.

What is radiation treatment?

Radiation treatment uses cancer-killing rays to damage cancer cells and stop them from growing. Some people call it x-ray treatment. There are two kinds of radiation. Some men have one kind and some men have both kinds.

External radiation comes from a large machine and is given while you lie on a table. You go to a hospital or clinic 5 days a week for 6 to 7 weeks for treatment. Each treatment takes about 15-30 minutes. It does not hurt.



Internal radiation comes from a tube placed in or near the cancer. Most men go home right after having the treatment.

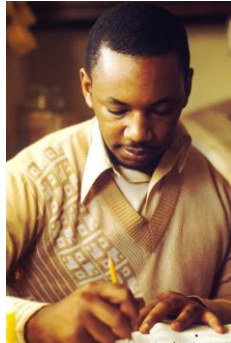


Questions to ask your doctor about radiation:

- What will this treatment do for me?
- Will I have external or internal radiation?
- How many treatments will I have?
- How will I feel while I am having it?
- What can I do to take care of myself while I am having the treatment?
- Will I be able to do the things I usually do?
- How will this treatment affect my sex life?
- Am I likely to have trouble urinating after the treatment?
- Am I likely to have problems with diarrhea after the treatment?

Talking to your doctor about treatment

Writing down your questions before you talk to the doctor can help you remember them. It may also help to bring a family member or friend with you.



How can I find out more about treatment for prostate cancer?

- Call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). The call is free.
- or**
- Call the West Virginia Prostate Cancer Initiative, a program of the West Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Program at 304-293-2370.