

How does radiation therapy help?

Half of Australians and New Zealanders diagnosed with cancer (over 100,000 each year) could benefit from radiation therapy.

Radiation therapy is a part of the treatment program in around 40% of all patients cured of their cancer. It can be used alone or with other treatments such as surgery or chemotherapy.

Radiation therapy also has a very important role in helping patients with cancer that cannot be cured. In advanced cancers, radiation therapy is commonly used to shrink tumours or treat secondary cancers (spread from other areas). This relieves pain and other symptoms, improving a cancer patient's quality of life.



For more information

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
RADIATION THERAPY VISIT
www.targetingcancer.com.au
www.targetingcancer.co.nz

YOU CAN FOLLOW TARGETING CANCER
ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 @TargetingCancer

 Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT
Cancer Council Australia
13 11 20 or www.cancer.org.au

Cancer Society of New Zealand
www.cancernz.org.nz

About the Targeting Cancer campaign

The Radiation Oncology: Targeting Cancer campaign is an initiative of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists. Its aim is to raise awareness of radiation therapy.

THE TARGETING CANCER CAMPAIGN IS
SUPPORTED BY:



The Faculty of Radiation Oncology



ACPSEM
Australasian College of Physical
Scientists & Engineers in Medicine



NZMRT



RADIATION
ONCOLOGY
TARGETING CANCER



What is Radiation Therapy?

Providing information about radiation therapy, the medical use of radiation to treat cancer patients.

What is Radiation Oncology?

Radiation oncology is a medical specialty that uses controlled radiation to cure cancer or to reduce pain and other symptoms caused by cancer. It is involved in around 40% of all cancer cures.

Radiation therapy (or radiotherapy) is the treatment delivered by the radiation oncology team. It is a modern, safe and effective treatment for many types of cancer.



Radiation kills cancer cells and stops them from growing or spreading to other parts of the body. Radiation therapy is accurately targeted at the cancer using very sophisticated technology. This reduces the side effects of treatment. In addition, cancer cells are more susceptible to radiation than healthy cells.

The radiation oncology team includes doctors, nurses, radiation therapists and medical physicists, who all work together to give the most effective and safe treatment, whilst looking after the cancer patient's needs.

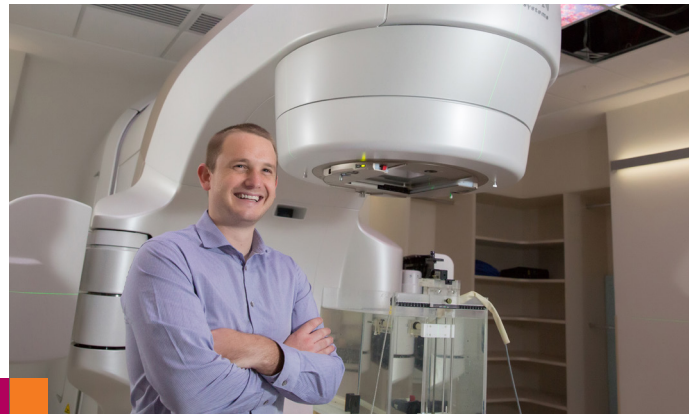
What can I expect if I'm having radiation therapy?

Radiation therapy is different for each patient with cancer. Treatment is individually prescribed for each person based on:

- the type, size and location of the cancer
- whether it has spread to other parts of the body
- the treatment aims - symptom relief or cure
- whether other forms of treatment are also being given
- the patient's general health and wishes

Most radiation therapy is completely non-invasive and doesn't require admission to hospital. Radiation therapy often has minimal side effects. It is completely painless when being delivered.

Each treatment is quick, and most patients can continue normal daily activities, including working, through treatment.



How to talk to your doctor about your cancer treatment

Treatment decisions will take place after a detailed discussion of your options, priorities and concerns, often with a team of several specialists that treat your type of cancer.

This might include surgeons, radiation oncologists (the doctors who are experts in radiation therapy) and medical oncologists who prescribe chemotherapy.



Some questions for your doctors might include:

- What are all the treatment options that might be effective?
- What are the success rates of each type of treatment?
- What are the short-term and long-term side effects of each treatment?
- How much time may I need off work?
- How will treatment impact on my family/ social life/sex life?
- How much will treatment cost?

You are entitled to ask for a second opinion or further information if you need. Your general practitioner or radiation oncologist can help with this.