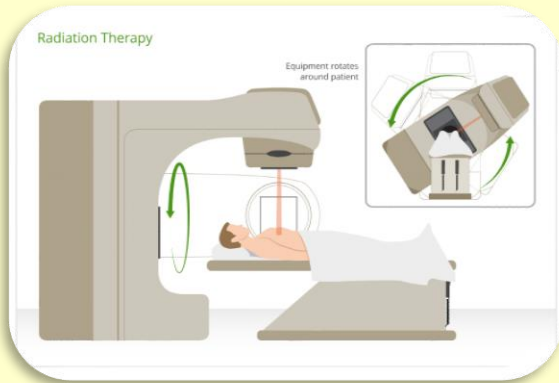


RADIATION THERAPY

Radiation therapy uses focused high-energy rays to damage and kill cancer cells. The most common types of lung cancer radiation therapy, external beam radiation and internal radiation therapy may be employed as part of your comprehensive treatment strategy.

Radiation therapy can be used for many different reasons: As your main lung cancer treatment, after surgery to eliminate any remaining cancer, before surgery to shrink tumor size, and at any point in treatment to help relieve pain caused by lung cancer.

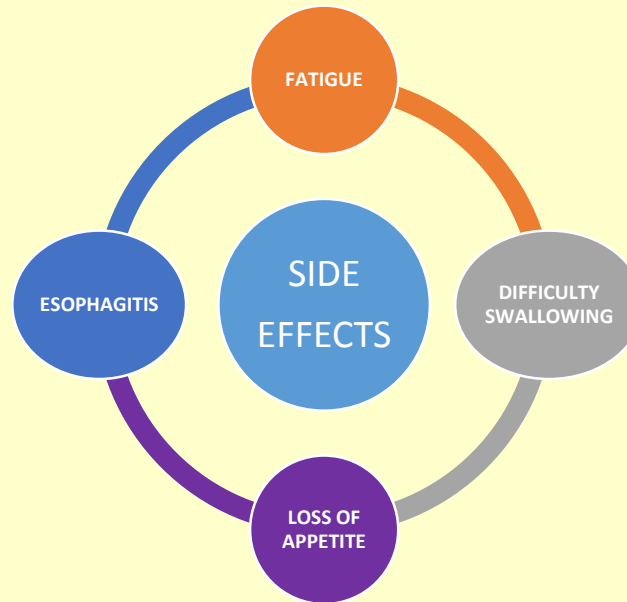


External beam radiation therapy focuses radiation energy from outside the body on the cancer cells. Each treatment session is brief, lasting just a few minutes, and will feel a lot like getting an x-ray. No pain is felt during the procedure and treatments can be as often as 5 days a week for as many as 7 weeks. Your radiation specialists will work with you to determine your frequency and length of treatment.

Internal radiation therapy also known as brachytherapy may also be employed by your team, and is often used to shrink tumors in airway passages to help alleviate discomfort. This treatment uses a small source of radioactive material that is placed into the cancer or very near it in order to damage the tumor at its source.

SYMPTOMS OF TREATMENT

Symptoms and side effects from radiation therapy are different for every patient. While your cancer specialists will do all they can to make your treatment as comfortable as possible, unexpected reactions may occur. It is important to speak with your specialists should areas of concern arise. Below are some of the more common symptoms that can occur during radiation therapy.



FATIGUE

Fatigue is the most common symptom to occur from radiation therapy and is often more severe than the typical fatigue a person can feel in their daily life. Speak to your health care professional. He or she will have recommendations such as high protein snacks and smaller, more frequent meals to help combat fatigue from treatment.

ESOPHAGITIS

Esophagitis, or inflammation of the esophagus, is very common when receiving radiation therapy. If you are feeling pain and irritation when drinking or eating, having smaller meals, drinking more nutrient dense liquids, and even adding glutamine rich foods can all help reduce inflammation. Consult your cancer specialist for recommendations.

LOSS OF APPETITE

Loss of appetite and poor appetite are very common during cancer treatment therapies. Talk to your cancer treatment specialists for options. Liquid supplementation, medications, and other dietary recommendations may be provided to help support your health during the course of your radiation therapy.

DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING

It is not uncommon for lung cancer radiation therapy patients to experience difficulty or discomfort when swallowing during and after treatment. Speak to your doctor and they can advise you on options to decrease swelling and improve comfort. You may find a soft diet easier while undergoing treatment.