

Important Contact Information

Radiation Therapy Reception
(709) 777-8206

Nutrition Reception
(709) 777-7604

Social Work Reception
(709) 777-7604

Daffodil Place
(709) 753-6520

Agnes Cowan Hostel
(709) 777-6831
(709) 777-6832

Cancer Patient Navigator
(855) 848-3888

Look Good Feel Better Program
Western (709) 634-6542
Central (709) 489-5822
Eastern (709) 777-6480
www.lgfb.ca

Nurse _____

Phone # _____

Radiation Therapy

Rectum/Anal Canal

Late Side Effects: Those that happen months or years after treatment

More Common...

Chronic change in bowel habits

- Intermittent diarrhea
- Change in stool frequency

Changes in Sexual Function

- Erectile dysfunction (50% risk)
- Vaginal dryness and sexual discomfort
- Ovarian function loss, menopause (100% risk)

Rare (less than 5%)...

Scarring

- Pelvic scarring
 - Makes future pelvic surgeries more difficult
- Intestines/bowel damage (<5% risk)
 - Causes bleeding, stricture, or obstruction
 - May require surgery (colostomy)
- Anus scarring (if the anus is treated)
 - Poor anal function resulting in incontinence

Weakening of Pelvic Bones (<3% risk)

- Slightly increased risk of fracture





Integrity
Fairness
Connectedness
Excellence
Respect

Radiation Treatment

- It is important to lay still and breathe normally
- The treatment cannot be seen, felt or smelled
- You will not be radioactive after treatment
- Each appointment takes about 15mins
- It is important to follow therapists' instructions

Treatment Preparation

Bladder Preparation

- 1 hr. before treatment empty your bladder
- Immediately drink 500ml of water
- Do not empty your bladder before treatment
- Do this each day before treatment
- Please notify a radiation therapist if you have problems keeping your bladder full

Side Effects of Treatment

Acute Side Effects: Those that happen during or shortly after treatment

Bladder Changes

- Frequent urination or burning during urination
- Drink plenty of clear fluids

Rectal Discomfort

- Anus irritation may cause a hemorrhoid flare
- Keep the area exposed to air
- Sitz baths may ease discomfort

Directions for Sitz Baths

Fill bath with warm water (about 5 inches)
Add ½ cup baking soda and stir to dissolve
Sit in the water for 10-15 minutes
Repeat 2-4 times daily or as needed

Bowel Changes

- Urgency
 - The sensation you need to have a bowel movement but nothing comes out
 - Can be managed with suppositories
- Diarrhea
 - Use Imodium as per package directions
 - Limit high fiber, fatty and fried foods
 - Drink plenty of clear fluids
- Gas & Cramping
 - Avoid carbonated drinks & chewing gum
 - Avoid gaseous foods like turnip, onions, peas

Hair Loss

- Temporary and occurs in the treatment field

Skin Irritation

- Avoid rubbing or scratching the irritated area
- Mild unscented soap is recommended
- Pat or air dry after a shower or bath
- Avoid creams or lotions in the treatment area
- Avoid ice packs and heating pads in treatment area

Fatigue

- You may feel tired 3-4 weeks into treatment
- Rest when needed
- Eat a balanced diet, drink plenty of clear fluids

Late Side Effects... →