



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

Radiation Therapy and Side Effects

Radiation therapy uses targeted, high-energy X-rays to kill cancer cells. Radiation therapy is given after surgery. Radiation therapy may be given in different ways.

You may be unsure of what to ask your doctor regarding radiation therapy. Here are some questions to help start the conversation.

Q: How many radiation treatments will I have? When should I start? Will I need someone to go with me?

A: _____

Q: How is radiation given?

A: _____

Q: How long will each treatment take? Who will give me the radiation treatments?

A: _____

Q: If I choose to have breast reconstruction, can I still have radiation? If so, would it be done before or after radiation?

A: _____

Q: What can I do to prepare for my treatment (for example, wear a two-piece outfit)?

A: _____

Q: What side effects should I expect? How long might they last? What side effects should I report to you?

A: _____

Q: What can I do to prepare my skin for radiation? How can I best treat my skin in between radiation therapy?

A: _____

Q: What are the long-term risks of radiation therapy?

A: _____

Q: Can I continue normal activities (work, sex, sports, etc.) during treatment? After treatment?

A: _____

Q: Why do I need radiation therapy?

A: _____

Q: How often should I return to see you after my radiation treatments end? Is there a clinical trial I can join?

A: _____

Notes:



For more information, visit komen.org or call Susan G. Komen's Breast Care Helpline at 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET or email at helpline@komen.org. Se habla español. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) komen.org