

Radiation Therapy Considerations

Recent developments in radiotherapy have been shown to be as effective as surgery in achieving a curative resolution to the disease with fewer of the side effects associated with surgery. For a complete discussion of radiation therapy options, see the article by Dr. Mack Roach III found at <http://www.prostate-online.com/roachinterview.html>

The following questions should be discussed with your urologist and a radiation oncologist to determine the best option for your specific cancer:

What type of radiation therapy would be right for me:

- External beam
- Conformal
- Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Brachytherapy (seed implants)

Why is radiotherapy better for me than surgery?

Will I have hormone therapy before and/or after the treatment? For how long?

What will be the expected side effects from each of these treatments? How long will they last?

How will we know that the treatment has been successful? Will my PSA level go down? Are there any predictive tools to indicate whether or not the treatment will be successful?

I understand that there is a possibility that I could become incontinent or impotent immediately after the treatment or at some point in the future; what are the chances in my case?

What happens if the treatment fails and the cancer comes back?