What to Expect During Radiation Therapy

Consult Day

These questions are meant to help you feel prepared for your first meeting with your radiation oncologist. After reading this, if you have additional questions, please call 860-545-2803, and ask to speak to one of our nurses.

Where do I go for my appointment?
Come to the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at 85 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, CT. Valet parking is free and staff will be at the front door to park your car.

What should I bring with me?
- Any test results or copies of scans that have been given to you.
- The names of all the doctors involved in your care.
- A list of your current medications and allergies.
- The name and phone number of your pharmacy.
- Your Advance Directive (Living Will) – if you don’t have one, we can provide you with information.

What is going to happen?
You will check in at the Radiation Oncology desk where the receptionist will verify your ID and your insurance information. You will meet with the doctor and may also meet the nurse who will coordinate your care. You will be given a folder with Hartford Hospital information which will include your nurse’s contact information. If radiation is planned, you will be given an appointment for the next step in the process, a planning session.

Can I bring my family?
Yes, this is a good opportunity for you to bring your caregivers to learn about your treatment.

How long will my consult take?
The consultation process may take up to 1½ hours.
Who can I talk to if I need specific treatment times or assistance with transportation?
You can speak with our staff while you are here for your consultation. While we cannot guarantee specific times, or transportation, we will do our best to assist you with possible options. Our American Cancer Society Patient Navigator, Mary Ann Vanderjagt, can help with transportation; she is available by phone at 860-545-4184. She can determine if your insurance covers transportation or if we may be able to provide a volunteer driver to some appointments.

What if I don’t speak English?
Hartford Hospital has staff members who are trained in translation and we also use a telephone service which can translate almost any language spoken. Please just let us know when you come in that you need translation assistance.

What happens after this appointment?
Usually, you will leave with your next appointment for your planning session. However, if other things are scheduled before your radiation (surgery, tests, chemotherapy) your planning session can be scheduled later. You can always call your nurse with any questions or concerns.

Your comfort and satisfaction are so important to us. Please let any of our staff know how we can help in any way. The Radiation Oncology Department can be reached at (860) 545-2803.