

Superficial Radiotherapy

What is SRT?

Superficial Radiotherapy (SRT), a low –energy radiotherapy that penetrates only a short distance below the surface of the skin, is a highly effective, painless, and cosmetically attractive alternative to surgery in selected cancers and patient populations. The SRT-100™ is the newest and most advanced choice for superficial radiotherapy available today. It is very similar to having a X-ray.

How does SRT effectively treat the skin cancer?

When soft X-rays from the SRT beam hits a cell that is dividing, the cell will be damaged. Cancer cells are much less able than normal cells to repair themselves, causing the cancer cell to be destroyed. As the damaged cells die, healthy cells begin to replace them. Superficial radiation therapy works by optimizing damage to cancer cells while minimizing the effects to normal cells in the margins. Radiation is a very important tool in the fight against cancer. When radiation interacts with a cancerous cell, it alters the cell's DNA (or genetic make-up) and its ability to reproduce, which ultimately leads to cell death in the cancerous tumor. SRT is specifically engineered to deliver most of the energy at the skin surface.

Main objective of SRT:

The main objective in radiation oncology for skin lesions is to eradicate the lesion while maintaining the patient's present and future quality of life. Delivering precisely measured dose of radiation to a defined tumor volume with minimal damage to surrounding tissue is the main goal. The success of eradicating a tumor depends on the radio-sensitivity of the tumor as well as tolerance of surrounding normal tissue. The tissues of the body have individual variation of absorption and tolerance to ionizing radiation.

What will happen during my appointment?

During the treatment, a small lead cutout with a treatment applicator is placed on the skin thru which soft X-rays are delivered for less than a minute. The therapy is non-invasive and painless. Upon completion, the applicator and lead cutout are removed.

What are the possible side effects to SRT?

That late and long-term effects of radiation can include skin atrophy (thinning of the skin), telangiectasia (visible, small blood vessels in the skin), increased or decreased skin pigmentation (darkening of the skin), permanent hair loss in the area treated, non-healing ulcer (rare), eye damage, and/or skin cancers can develop in the area treated due to the radiation therapy itself (very rare).

How do I care for the site being treated?

Use non-perfumed cleanser. Bathe using warm water and fingertips to gently wash affected skin. Wash hair using non-medicated shampoo. Avoid petroleum jelly based products, irritant products containing alcohol, perfumes, deodorants, additives and products containing acids or retinoids to area treated. Apply a gentle cream or ointment like CeraVe or Cetaphil 2-3 times a day. Try to avoid lotions as they can be more irritating. The patient may apply cool compresses to area and elevate for 10 minutes three times a day to help alleviate pruritus and inflammation.

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