Brachytherapy for Rectal Cancer

Brachytherapy (bra-kee-ther-uh-pee) is a radiation treatment that is given by placing a special applicator as close as possible to the tumour. A radioactive source is put into the applicator for a period of time and then removed. This treatment is done in the Brachytherapy Suite at the London Regional Cancer Program (LRCP).

You may be booked for one or more treatments. You will not have to be admitted to the hospital overnight.

Questions?

Your Brachytherapy Team:

Radiation Oncologist: ________________________________

London Regional Cancer Program: 519.685.8600
OR Nurse: Tammie Murray      519.685.8600 ext. 51355
OR Nurse: Leanne Derrah
Radiation Therapist: ________________________________

Please have your chart number ready when you call:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

If you have any questions about brachytherapy call 519-685-8600 and press option ’3’. You may call during regular business hours between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The Telephone Triage Nurse will give your message to your Operating Room (OR) Nurse. It may take up to three business days to return your call.
How should I prepare for the treatment?

- You must be on a clear fluid diet the entire day before and the day of the procedure. **Do not eat or drink solid foods and dairy.** You may have:
  - Fruit punches and juices with **no** pulp;
  - Bouillon, consommé, clear broth;
  - Clear gelatin desserts;
  - Popsicles;
  - Carbonated drinks and sodas;
  - Regular and decaffeinated coffee or tea **without** cream or milk;
  - Honey and white sugar;
  - Hard candy.

- Use **Fleet Enema®** three hours before your appointment. You can get this medicine at any pharmacy without a prescription. It is found in the laxative section.

- Take your medicines in the morning unless you are told not to by your Radiation Oncologist.

- Arrange for someone to take you home after the treatment.

**Important Dates**

Treatment #1:__________________________________________________________

Treatment #2:__________________________________________________________

Treatment #3:__________________________________________________________

Register at the Radiation Reception Desk on Level 1 at LRCP, 30 minutes (one-half hour) before your treatment.
What will happen during the treatment?

- After your register, you will be taken to the Brachytherapy Suite where the procedure will take place.
- You may be given a mild sedative. Please make certain someone will take you home when the procedure is finished.
- The Radiation Oncologist will put the treatment applicator into place.
- X-rays will be taken to help calculate the treatment time.
- A tube from the treatment machine will be attached to the applicator. A radioactive source will go into the applicator and stay a few minutes. When it is finished, it will go back into the machine. During the treatment, the Brachytherapy Team will leave the room.
- All applicators and catheters will be removed when the treatment is finished.

These steps will be repeated if more treatments are ordered.