

# Radiation Therapy to the Testes

## Printable PDF Version

You are scheduled to receive radiation therapy designed specifically for you. These guidelines will help you take an active part in your treatment.

## What to Expect During Treatment

### Skin Reactions

Temporary skin reactions may occur gradually. Usually these include redness, dryness, scaling, and itching of the treated area.

- Skin changes usually occur 1 to 2 weeks after your treatment begins and may last for several weeks after your last treatment.
- You may shower or bathe throughout your radiation therapy. Your nurse will recommend a mild soap for you to use.
- Moisturizers may be applied to the treatment area as needed. **Do not** use moisturizers within 2 hours **before** your radiation treatment. Suggested moisturizers include:

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- To prevent skin irritation, wear loose fitting cotton boxer shorts and clothing. Cotton does not hold moisture and allows the skin to breathe.

### Sexual Concerns

- Talk with your doctor if you are concerned about impotence or fertility issues.
- Sperm banking may be an option for you before you begin your treatments.
- Take precautions to prevent pregnancy. Your nurse or doctor will discuss birth control issues and methods with you.
- The risk of developing impotence, or erectile dysfunction, is usually low because a low dose of radiation is used. If you had a surgical procedure called retroperitoneal lymph node dissection, your risk of impotence is higher.

## What to Ask Your Nurse or Doctor

Ask your nurse or doctor any questions you may have about the following:

- Concerns about treatments and procedures
- Birth control methods
- Fertility and sperm banking
- Changes in sexual performance

- Availability of support groups

## Things to Report to Your Nurse or Doctor

Tell your nurse or doctor if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Pain, unusual odor, or burning during urination (emptying your bladder)
- Frequent urination
- Red, swollen, or tender areas of skin
- Any new or unusual symptoms

## Things to Report Immediately

Call **immediately** if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100.5°F (38°C) or above
- Chills

**In an Emergency, Call:**

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