### ASK A RADIATION ONCOLOGIST

## Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer

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### **Today's Agenda**

- Overview of breast cancer
- Treatment options
- Common questions
- Covid-19 vaccine for patients
- RT Answers patient education materials



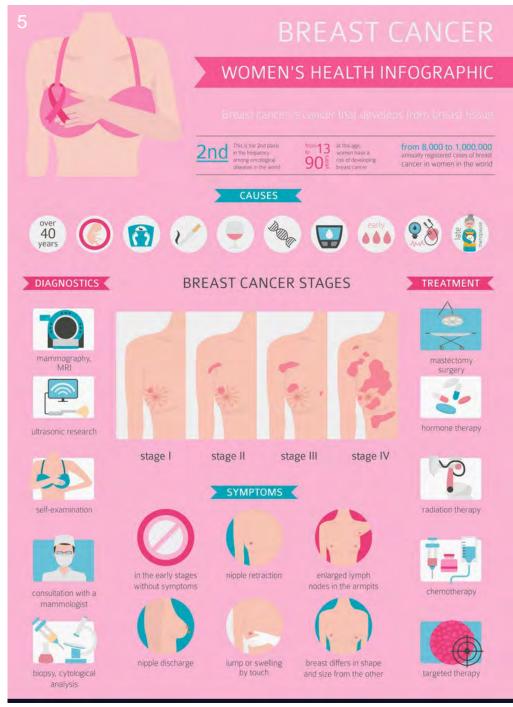
Today's discussion is informational only and should not be used in place of advice specific to your condition from your medical professional.

We will discuss treatments including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and others.

We encourage you to talk to other specialists, where appropriate, about any treatments you are considering.

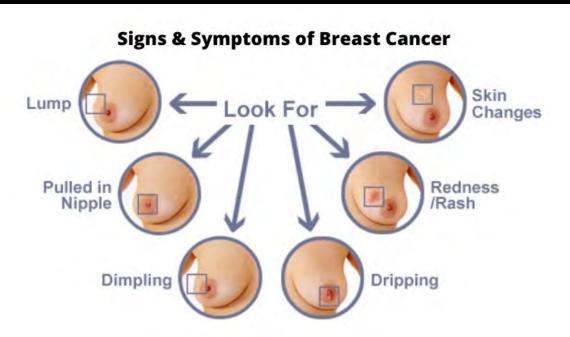


Types of cancers we will discuss: Invasive breast cancer Pre-invasive breast cancer (e.g. DCIS)



#### https://pai.madia.appaar.gov/pdg/madia/imagaa/ 707927.ing

# What is breast cancer?

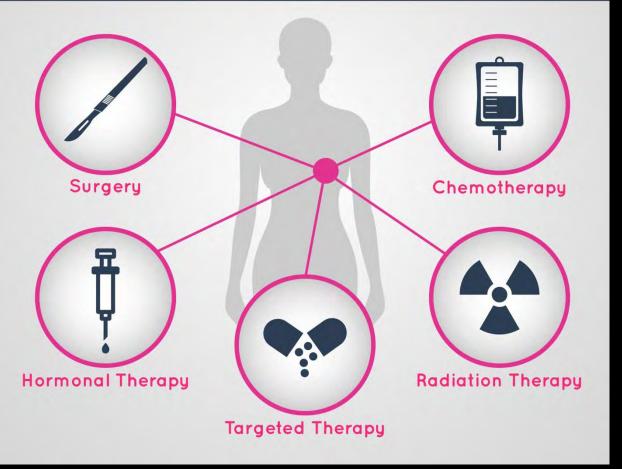


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What are some common symptoms of this cancer?

How is breast cancer diagnosed?





What happens after the cancer is found?



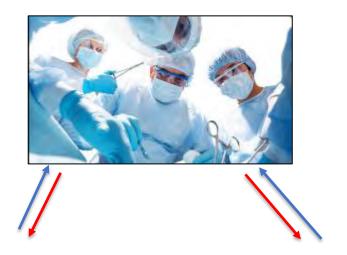


Is there a way to prevent this cancer or catch it earlier?

Should I change my diet or take supplements?



## **Treatment for Breast Cancer**







### Doctors & Treatments for Breast Cancer

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- Which doctors are involved with patients with this cancer?
- Which types of treatments are offered by each physician?



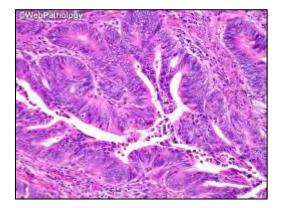


https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/roundup/issues/2018/july-9.html https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/magazine/issues/2018/spring/features/winship-beat-odds-pancreatic-cancer/index.html

### Treatments for Breast Cancer

- How do doctors know which treatment(s) is best for me?
- Which treatment is first?





### Treatments

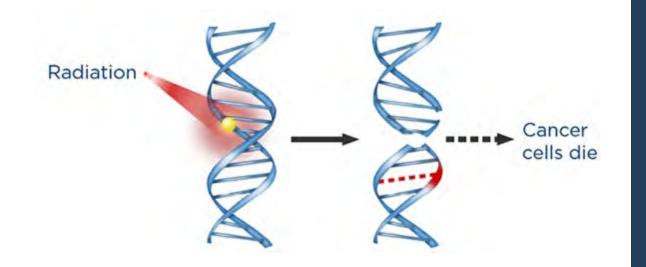
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 Does everyone get surgery, radiation, and systemic therapy (Chemo)?









### Radiation Therapy

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- What is radiation therapy?
- How does radiation therapy work?
- How often is radiation therapy given?
  - Why does it need to be given every day?



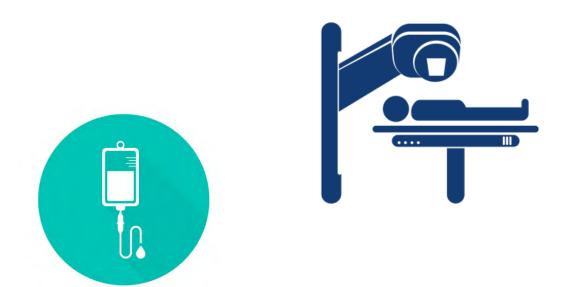


### Radiation Therapy

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Does everyone need radiation therapy?

 My doctor said I have the option to skip radiation, what does that mean?





### <sup>15</sup> Treatment Options

- Why do some patients get chemotherapy first?
- What if all the cancer is gone after chemotherapy, do I still need surgery and radiation?



# **Commonly Asked Questions**







### General Treatment Questions

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- How do we know that the treatment is working?
  - What do we check on the tumor?
- Can radiation be given
  more than once?



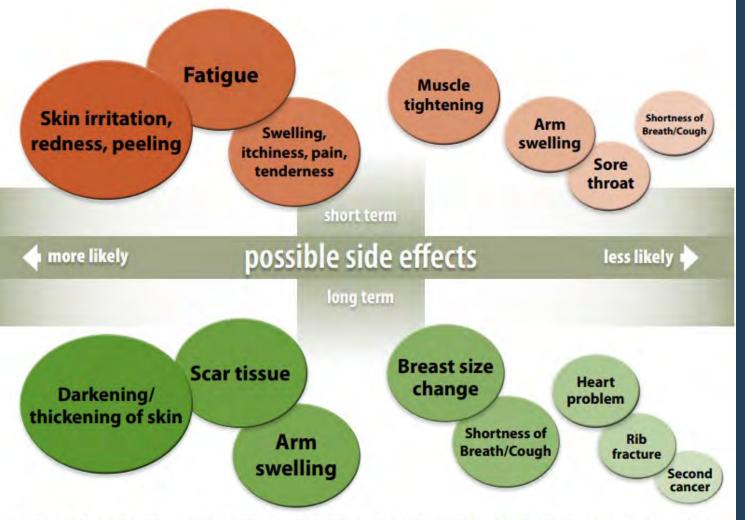




### General Treatment Questions

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- What treatment options are available if the cancer returns?
  - What if it spreads to other organs?



\*Larger/darker bubbles show higher likelhood of accurrence. Smaller/lighter bubbles show lesser likelihood of accurrence. This list doesn't represent all of the possible side effects. Please talk to your doctors about your specific diagnosis.

### Side Effects

- What types of shortterm side effects can be expected from radiation therapy?
- Are there things that can be done to minimize side effects?
- What long-term side effects are associated with treatment?

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## COVID-19

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#### **ASTRO Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination for Cancer Patients Receiving RT**

Cancer patients may have an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 and more severe disease if infected. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.

mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to people with underlying medical conditions provided they have not had a severe or immediate allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in the vaccine." These guidelines also apply to cancer patients.

The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines <u>do not include</u> any virus, and there is no risk of contracting the infection from the vaccine. *(Cont. next slide)* 

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#### **ASTRO Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination for Cancer Patients Receiving RT**

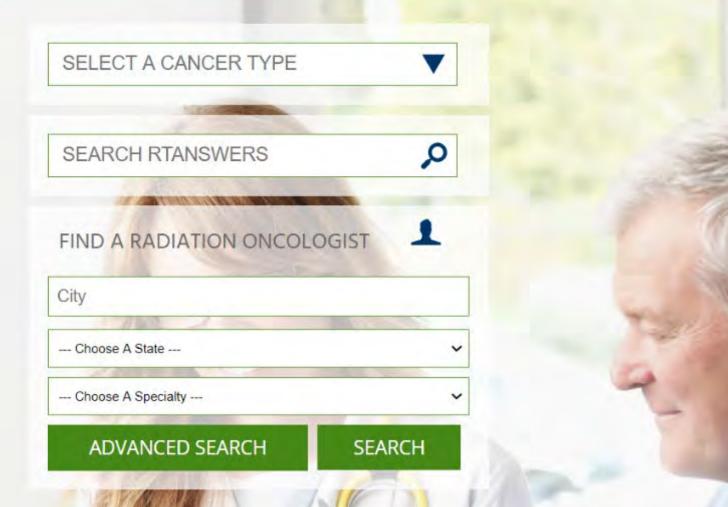
Patients who have cancer, as well as those who have received treatment for cancer, may be immune compromised, but these patients may still receive COVID-19 vaccines as long as there is no increased risk of reaction to any of the components of the vaccine.

ASTRO encourages cancer patients who are actively receiving treatment such as radiation therapy to consult with their oncologists about the timing for vaccination, injection location and any unique considerations relevant for their treatments. Individuals with a prior history of cancer who are not in active treatment are encouraged to seek vaccination whenever it is made available to them.



Survivorship 🎗 Treatment Team 🡥 Resources 🕕

Patient Education Cancer Type What is Radiation Therapy Treatment Types



#### <sup>24</sup> Radioterapia para El Cáncer de Mama



El cáncer de mama es el tipo de c común en las mujeres estadounio la Sociedad Americana de Cáncer Cancer Society). Este año, 232,340 2,240 hombres seran diagnosticad de mama invasivo, y otras 64,640 cáncer de mama no invasivo (o in mayor parte de los casos, el cánce se puede curar. Alrededor del 80 9 de pacientes con cáncer de mam menos, 10 años después del diag



### Radiation Therapy for **Breast Cancer**



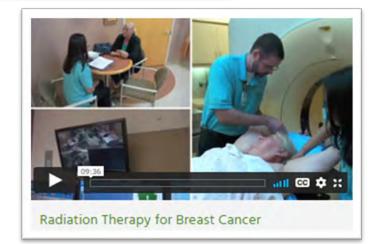
Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in American women, according to the American Cancer Society. This year, 268,600 women and 2,670 men will learn they have breast cancer. Another 62,930 women will learn they have noninvasive (also called in situ) breast cancer. Breast cancer can often be cured. About 80 percent of all patients with breast cancer live at least 10 years after their diagnosis.

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Radioterapia para el cancer de mama



#### Jean Larkin - Breast Cancer Survivor

When my doctor told me I had cancer, I was shocked and terrified to the point of paralysis. I was only 66 at the time, and up to that point, I had lived a healthy life. My husband and I were enjoying an active lifestyle in retirement, working out, traveling, and watching our grandkids grow up.

And then, out of the blue, a routine mammogram revealed that I had breast cancer—putting all that at risk. I hadn't even experienced any symptoms. And to make the emotional impact even harder, my best friend was battling cancer at that time...a battle she lost, sadly.

Hearing the word *cancer* in the same sentence with my own name was just shocking. Honestly, I was numb with a strong fear of the unknown while I also tried to stay positive.



#### Breast Cancer

Cassie Fedyshyn: Breast Cancer Year Diagnosed: 2016 | Hometown: Auburn, New York

Theresa Keresztes: Breast Cancer Year Diagnosed: 2007 | Hometown: Wellesley, Massachusettes

Jean Larkin: Breast Cancer Year Diagnosed: 2016 | Hometown: Warwick, Rhode Island

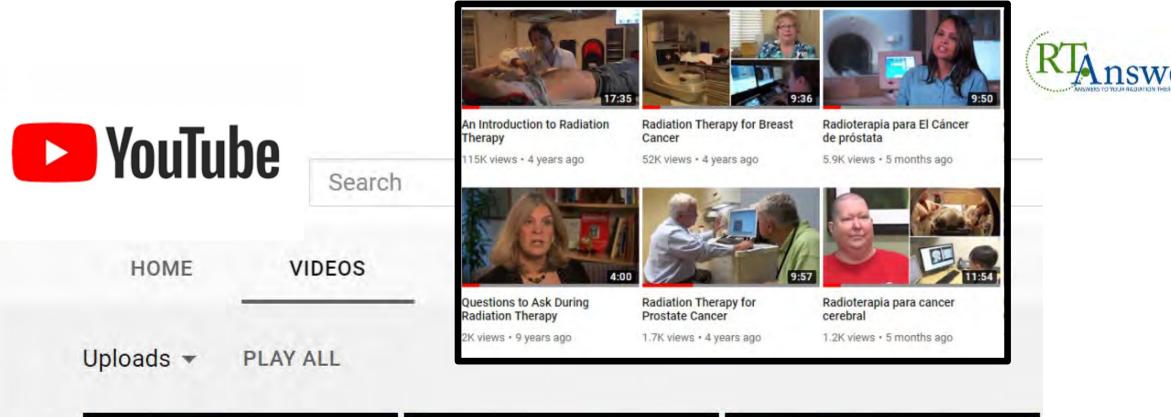
#### Margaret Werts: Breast Cancer Year Diagnosed: 2012 | Hometown: Pittsburgh

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#### **More Stories**

Patients and caregivers have shared stories of their experience with cancer in order to help other. Read the stories below or <u>share your story</u>.

Bladder Cancer	
Breast Cancer	
Caregiver	
Colon Cancer	
Head and Neck Cancer	
Lung Cancer	
Pancreatic Cancer	
Prostate Cancer	
Sarcoma	
Skin Cancer	





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# Thank you.



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