



HIGH DOSE RATE BRACHYTHERAPY | GYNECOLOGICAL TREATMENT

High dose rate brachytherapy consists of administering radiation to the affected or diseased tissue. Because a dose of radiation is directed to a very precise location while preserving healthy tissue, side effects are minimized.

A specialized team made up of radio-oncology technologists, the nursing assistant, the medical physicist and the doctor will be taking care of you.

The treatment is not painful and does not require you to be hospitalized. **Please be reassured that there will be no danger of radioactive transfer to your loved ones after the treatment.**

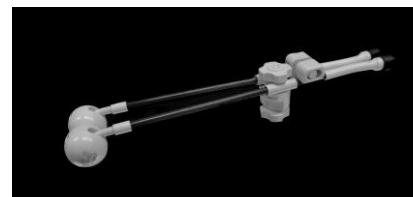
WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE TREATMENT?

First, one or more applicators (*colpostats* or cylinder) will be inserted in the area to be treated. During this time you will be lying on your back, in the gynecological position (with your feet in the stirrups). A urinary catheter will also be installed for the entire duration of your treatment. This procedure is not painful, but it could be uncomfortable.



You will then be taken to the radio-oncology room for a CT-scan. This examination generates radiological images to pinpoint the regions to be treated with radiation. From the images obtained, the medical physicist and the doctor will plan your treatment. During this time, you will be in a waiting room, resting on a stretcher. The person who accompanied you can join you there.

Once the course of treatment has been completed, you will be taken to the treatment room where the technologist will attach the catheter or catheters to the device. At the end of the treatment, the technologist will remove all the catheter(s), including the urinary catheter. Before you leave, we will check on your general condition to be sure that you are doing well.



Colpostats



Cylinder

HOW LONG SHOULD I EXPECT THE SESSION TO TAKE?

You will spend between 2 and 3 hours in radio-oncology, which will include:

- the installation of applicators (20 to 30 minutes);
- the CT-scan;
- waiting time (30 to 45 minutes);
- treatment (5 to 30 minutes).

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS?

Keep in mind that each person reacts differently and that you may not have side effects. Possible side effects are:

- fatigue after the treatment;
- vaginal discharge and/or vaginal bleeding several days after the treatment;
- diarrhea;
- a burning sensation when urinating;
- vaginal dryness;
- unusual sensitivity in the area treated.

SIGNS OF COMPLICATIONS TO WATCH FOR

Notify the brachytherapy team immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms after your treatment.

If you did not have chemotherapy: a fever higher than 38.3°C for more than 24 hr. (take temperature orally);

If you had chemotherapy: a fever above 38.3°C (take temperature orally);

- persistent or increasing pain at the treated area;
- any other symptom that worries you.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FOLLOW DURING TREATMENTS

- Use a mild, unscented soap (for example, Dove) on the treated area.
- Avoid taking perfumed baths (bubble bath, scented shower gel, etc.).
- You must refrain from having sexual relations for the entire treatment period.

INFORMATION



You can reach the brachytherapy team at 819 346-1110, ext. 14602, Monday to Friday, between 8 am and 4 pm.



If the clinic is closed, call Info-Santé at 811.



Should any of the symptoms listed above worsen, go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

Author: Radio-oncology Service

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