



# Radiation Therapy for Colorectal Cancer

Radiation therapy is an effective treatment option for colorectal cancer that offers several benefits for patients



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## RADIATION THERAPY FOR COLORECTAL CANCER:

# A Comprehensive Overview

Colorectal cancer is a serious health concern affecting millions of individuals worldwide. It is a disease of the colon or rectum, which are parts of the digestive system. Most colorectal cancers start as abnormal tissue growth, called a polyp, inside the colon or rectum. With the help of screening tests, physicians can detect polyps, remove them, and prevent them from developing into colorectal cancer. When detected early, colorectal cancer is highly treatable. Radiation therapy is one of the treatment options available for colorectal cancer that offers several benefits for patients.

### ADVANTAGES OF RADIATION THERAPY:

- Radiation therapy can target cancer cells specifically, while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissue, allowing for the preservation of the colon and rectum.
- Compared to treatment options like chemotherapy and surgery, radiation therapy has a relatively low risk of side effects and complications.
- Radiation therapy is also effective at preventing the recurrence of colorectal cancer, this is especially the case when used in combination with other treatments such as surgery or chemotherapy.
- It is a non-invasive treatment option, which is particularly beneficial for patients who may be unable or unwilling to undergo surgery, or in cases where surgery is not feasible or appropriate.

### SIDE EFFECTS:

- Radiation therapy typically only causes minor side effects, such as rectal irritation, bowel incontinence, or fatigue, compared to other treatment options like surgery and chemotherapy.

### CONCLUSION:

Radiation therapy is a proven and effective treatment option for colorectal cancer with a low risk of complications.

It offers many benefits such as no anesthesia or hospitalization required, preservation of the colon and rectum, and mild to manageable side effects. Radiation therapy improves the patient's quality of life during and after treatment, and it should be considered as part of a comprehensive treatment plan for colorectal cancer.

### QUICK FACTS

4<sup>th</sup>

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer in the U.S.

Age 66

Age 66 is the median age of a colorectal cancer diagnosis.

65% survival rate

Colorectal cancer has a 65% 5-year relative survival rate.

