



Questions to ask when presenting to a Radiation Oncologist after Bladder Cancer has been diagnosed

- What is radiation therapy and how does it work?
- What is the aim of radiation therapy in my case? Can my cancer be cured?
- What are the alternatives to radiation therapy in my case?

Questions to ask your Radiation Oncologist if the aim of the radiation therapy is to cure your bladder cancer:

- What is the chance of cure?
- What is the chance that I will be satisfied with my bladder function after radiation therapy? What is the chance it will be worse than it is now?
- Do I need chemotherapy in addition to radiation therapy? Why?
- After the radiation therapy is finished, what tests will I need and how often will I need them?
- What happens if my bladder cancer comes back after radiation treatment?
- Will I be able to have an operation (radical cystectomy) to remove my bladder if the cancer comes back in the bladder?

Questions to ask your Radiation Oncologist if the aim of the radiation therapy is to improve symptoms but not cure your bladder cancer:

- Do I need radiation treatment now?
- What cancer symptoms are likely to improve with radiation therapy?
- How long does it usually take to see an improvement in these symptoms?
- What symptoms are likely to worsen with radiation therapy?
- How long will the side effects from radiation therapy last?
- If my symptoms come back, can I have more radiation therapy in the future?



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- What are the side effects that occur during (acute), and/or after (late) radiation therapy?
 - How likely are these to occur?
 - How long do these side effects last?
 - Are these side effects likely to be permanent?
 - What can be done to improve these side effects if they occur?
 - Is there anything I can do to minimise my chance of side effects?

- Please tell me more about short and long term radiation effects on my:
 - General health and energy levels
 - Skin
 - Bladder function
 - Bowel function
 - Sexual function
 - Fertility and menopausal status
 - Lymphatic drainage
 - Bone health
 - Risk of getting a second cancer

- Will radiation therapy affect my immune system?

- Can I still drive during radiation therapy?

- Can I still work during radiation therapy?

- Can I still be around children and my family during treatment?

- Do I need to use contraception during radiation therapy?

- Do I need to stop smoking during radiation therapy?

- Is it safe to take vitamins and herbal medications during radiation therapy?



Questions to ask when presenting to a Radiation Oncologist after Bladder Cancer has been diagnosed

- When will my treatment start?
- Please explain my treatment plan:
 - How many radiation treatments will I need?
(This is usually described as a number of Fractions)
 - How often do I need to attend for treatment and how long does each treatment take?
 - Do I need to do anything special to prepare for treatment each day? (Eg. empty my bladder)
 - Who should I contact if I have concerns/symptoms during treatment?
 - How will you make sure that my bladder is being accurately targeted each treatment?
- How many patients with bladder cancer do you treat each year?
- Am I eligible for any clinical trials?
- How long do I have to make a decision?
- Do you have any other patients I could talk to who have already been through this treatment?
- What kind of support is available for myself and/or my partner?
 - Counsellor
 - Support groups
- For any treatment I require, what will Medicare cover?
 - Are there any out of pocket expenses?
- Does having the treatment as a private or public patient have any impact on how quickly my treatment is likely to start?



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❑ Where can I find more information?

- Targeting Cancer
<https://www.targetingcancer.com.au/treatment-by-cancer-type/bladder-cancer/>
- EVIQ Curative treatment for bladder cancer:
<https://www.eviq.org.au/radiation-oncology/urogenital/bladder/1025-urogenital-bladder-urothelial-carcinoma-defin/patient-information#faqs>
- EVIQ Palliative treatment for bladder cancer:
<https://www.eviq.org.au/radiation-oncology/urogenital/bladder/1026-urogenital-bladder-palliative-ebrt/patient-information>