

HIGH DOSE RATE/HDR BRACHYTHERAPY FOR PROSTATE CANCER?

Brought to your attention by
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DISCLAIMER: Please recognize that I am not a Medical Doctor. I have been an avid student researching and studying prostate cancer as a survivor and continuing patient since 1992. I have dedicated my retirement years to continued research and study in order to serve as an advocate for prostate cancer awareness, and, from a activist patient's viewpoint, to voluntarily help patients, caregivers, and others interested develop an understanding of prostate cancer, its treatment options, and the treatment of the side effects that often accompany treatment. There is absolutely no charge for my mentoring – I provide this free service as one who has been there and hoping to make your journey one with better understanding and knowledge than was available to me when I was diagnosed so many years ago. Readers of this paper must understand that the comments or recommendations I make are not intended to be the procedure to blindly follow; rather, they are to be reviewed as my opinion, then used for further personal research, study, and subsequent discussion with the medical professional/physician providing your prostate cancer care.

I am providing below both claimed pros and also cons important for anyone considering this procedure as treatment for their prostate cancer to be aware before having the procedure administered.

PROS:

“High-dose rate brachytherapy: From adjuvant therapy to an alternative for prostate cancer”

“High-dose-rate brachytherapy is typically used as a dose-escalating boost for external beam radiotherapy (EBRT) for prostate cancer. But some researchers believe it might be close to graduating to a viable monotherapy—an alternative, rather than an adjuvant, to prostate EBRT.”

This paper (and others I have reviewed in the past) indicates that HDR Brachytherapy may be a better initial option with better results than either EBRT or seed implant brachytherapy: <http://tinyurl.com/mv29jd6>

The paper requires an Oncology Nurse Advisor/ONA subscription which you can apply for free. There are many papers regarding prostate cancer brought to our attention by this source, so well worth subscribing.

CONS:

The reservations many Radiation Oncologists have with High Dose Rate Brachytherapy is the dose amount in HDR and the effect it can have throughout the system but particularly on the bladder, urethra, and rectum. It is not a simple procedure and entails a special room required because of the dosage, the patient in a semi-lithotomy position, needles in his butt, bowels paralyzed with medication, and with a foley catheter through his urethra to the bladder.

My advice is before going forward with the administration of HDR, the patient should research and study this procedure very carefully and be totally aware of the side effects he may experience in the near term or in the distant future.