


IMPORTANT NOTES

LOCATION AND CONTACT DETAILS



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CANCER INSTITUTE, SINGAPORE (NCIS)

Outpatient Facilities	Level @ NUH MC
Radiation Therapy Centre	8
Breast Care Centre	8
Viva-University Children's Cancer Centre	9
Stem Cell Therapy Centre	9
Chemotherapy Centre	9
Cancer Centre	10

 (65) 6773 7888*

 (65) 6777 4413


 CancerApptLine@nuhs.edu.sg

 www.ncis.com.sg

 www.facebook.com/NationalUniversityCancerInstituteSingapore/

CancerLine: Free, confidential counselling service

 (65) 9722 0569*

 CancerLineNurse@nuhs.edu.sg

*Mon - Fri (Except Public Holidays): 8.30am - 5.30pm



5 Lower Kent Ridge Road,
Singapore 119074
www.nuh.com.sg



**A GUIDE TO
GYNAECOLOGICAL
BRACHY THERAPY**
Patient and Family Information

DAY OF INSERTION



WHAT IS HIGH-DOSE RATE (HDR) BRACHYTHERAPY?

High-Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy is a type of radiation therapy, which is given internally (inside the body). Brachytherapy can be used as the main treatment or as part of a combination of treatments with external beam radiation therapy.

A HDR Brachytherapy machine contains a tiny radioactive source (the size of a rice grain) attached to the end of a long wire. During each treatment, the source will travel through the wire into an applicator.



Different types of applicators

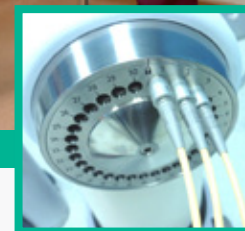
BEFORE HDR BRACHYTHERAPY TREATMENT

- You will be asked to sign a consent form.
- An identification photo will be taken and it will be placed in your medical chart for future identification purposes. Photos taken will remain in your medical chart and will be kept private and confidential.
- This procedure will take about 2 to 3 hours and can be attended as an out-patient. You may need to fast for 6 hours before the insertion (if needed). You may wish to arrange for someone to accompany you home after the insertion procedure (if needed).
- You may be given fleet enema to clear your bowels one hour before your procedure.
- You will need to lie on a bed with your legs raised up for the insertion of the applicator.
- Depending on your condition, your Radiation Oncologist will insert the appropriate type of applicator through your vagina.
- You may experience some pain and discomfort. This can be reduced with prescribed painkillers and sedation (if needed).
- The applicator is secured using vaginal packing and / or strings and tapes.

DURING HDR BRACHYTHERAPY TREATMENT

- 1) After the applicator has been inserted, a CT scan will be done to verify and confirm the placement of the applicator.
- 2) After the scanned images have been transferred to the Brachytherapy Planning System, your Radiation Oncologist will outline the location of the tumour.
- 3) Radiation Physicists will then plan and calculate your treatment dose. Treatment durations vary from 10 to 15 minutes.
- 4) Your Radiation Oncologist will verify the plan and approve it before treatment commences. A final X-ray is done to verify the placement of the applicator.
- 5) The applicator is connected to the brachytherapy machine. The computerised system will guide the radioactive source into the applicator and deliver the treatment.

Images are for illustration purposes only. Each patient's treatment regime is different. The machine may not be set-up in the same way for your treatment.



AFTER HDR BRACHYTHERAPY TREATMENT

- Once the treatment is done, the applicator is removed by the Radiation Oncologist.
- It is common to experience some slight bleeding after the removal of the applicator.
- You can go home once the Radiation Oncologist confirms that your condition is stable.
- For any enquiries, please call the Nurse Station at 6772 8390 or 6772 8370 during office hours.