

Brachytherapy for Cancer of the Endometrium

What to Expect



Grand River Regional Cancer Centre
519-749-4370
www.cancerwaterloowellington.ca

GRAND RIVER
REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE

**Waterloo Wellington
Regional Cancer Program**
Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario)

What is Brachytherapy?

Brachytherapy is a dose of radiation given inside or next to the area needing treatment. A high dose is given to the cancer in a short period of time. This reduces the risk of damage to healthy tissue, while treating the tumour.

Before Coming for Brachytherapy

- Take your medication as usual.
- You may have a light meal.
- Wash the area around your vagina and anus (bum).

Checking In For Your Treatment

Check in for your treatment at the Radiation Reception Desk.

You will be met by a Radiation Therapist who will explain what will happen.

You will change into a hospital gown and be taken into the brachytherapy room, where there is an x-ray machine and other monitors.

Brachytherapy Treatment

- You will lie down and your legs will be placed in stirrups, like it would be for a pelvic exam.
- The Radiation Oncologist may do a pelvic exam before inserting the treatment applicator.
- Tubes connect the treatment machine to the applicator.
- The Radiation Therapist will secure the applicator in place.
- If needed, x-rays will be taken.
- The radiation source moves through the tubes to give you your treatment.
- During this time, you will be alone in the room, but we can see you on our monitors, and hear/talk to you through an intercom.
- When your treatment is finished, the radiation source moves back to the machine and the applicator is taken out.

After Your Brachytherapy

- You will not be radioactive.
- You can go home as soon as the procedure is over.
- Drink 8 – 12 cups of liquid each day, for the next 2-3 days.
- Some spotting or bleeding from the vagina is normal. We will provide you with a pad.
- You may have some cramping, which should stop by the end of the day.
- You will be given a vaginal dilator (with instructions) to begin to use 1 – 2 weeks after your radiation therapy is done.
- You can have sexual intercourse (sex) when you feel comfortable.

Call your Health Care Team if you get any of these side effects:

- A fever
- Severe abdominal (belly) pain
- A lot of bleeding
- Cannot urinate (pee)

GRRCC Call Centre: 519-749-4380

8:30AM – 4:00PM

After 4:00PM, on weekends or holidays you can call
CareChart@Home: 1-877-681-3057