



PATIENT EDUCATION

Ampullary cancer & radiation therapy

A plain-language guide for patients and families. Bring this to your visit. It does not replace advice from your clinician.

What is this cancer?

The ampulla of Vater is where the bile duct and pancreatic duct meet the small bowel. Cancers here can cause jaundice early, which sometimes means they are found sooner than pancreatic cancers. Surgery (often a Whipple) is the main treatment when it is possible. Chemotherapy is common. Radiation is used for selected positive margins, unresectable tumors, or symptoms.

What you may notice

- Jaundice, itching, or dark urine
- Belly pain, weight loss, or pale stools
- A stent already in place
- Confusion with pancreatic or bile-duct cancer - ask us to write the starting point

Usual care — the big picture

A pancreas team decides if a Whipple is possible. Nutrition and enzyme replacement are common after that surgery. Radiation is not automatic.

Where CureRays may fit. CureRays treats selected ampullary beds or unresectable tumors when the GI conference agrees. We will state the goal. Confirm stent and enzyme plans.

What radiation treatment usually involves

- Operative and pathology review if you had surgery
- Simulation with a stomach-filling routine
- A course length matched to the goal
- Nausea and enzyme support

Immobilization — why it matters

A vac-bag and a snack-or-fast rule keep the stomach position closer to the plan.



Side effects you should know about

Effects depend on the area treated, the dose, and other therapies. This list is typical, not a promise and not complete. Confirm your personal list with your clinician.

- **Nausea, fatigue, and loose stool.**
- **Stomach irritation.**
- **Rare / serious.** Fever with a blocked stent, or vomiting blood.

What this means for you at CureRays

Ask whether this is a leftover-bed plan after a Whipple or a non-surgical course. The calendars differ.

Questions to ask

- Was a Whipple done, and what did the margins show?
- What is the goal of radiation?
- What enzymes and food plan should I use?
- Who manages the stent?

How to schedule or learn more

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