



PATIENT EDUCATION

Cervical 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?

Cervical cancer starts in the cervix. HPV is the usual cause; vaccines and Pap/HPV screening prevent many cases. Early disease may be surgery. Locally advanced disease is often chemotherapy plus external radiation plus brachytherapy (internal treatment). Finishing this package on time matters. We will help you with rides, symptoms, and questions so days are not lost.

What you may notice

- Bleeding after sex, between periods, or after menopause
- Pelvic pain or a watery discharge
- A normal-feeling week — some cancers are found on a Pap or exam
- Questions about fertility and sexual health — please ask

Usual care — the big picture

Stage (how far it extends, including nodes) decides surgery versus chemoradiation. Brachytherapy is a standard part of curative radiation for many intact-cervix plans — it is not optional extra. Supportive care for diarrhea, urinary burning, and fatigue is expected.

Where CureRays may fit. CureRays delivers external pelvic/nodal radiation and works with partners for brachytherapy when that is required. We will explain each piece so you are not surprised. Confirm the full calendar at the start.

What radiation treatment usually involves

- Exam, imaging, and a pregnancy test when relevant
- Simulation; daily external treatments with chemotherapy on agreed days
- Brachytherapy visits as scheduled — we will describe positioning and anesthesia options
- Weekly labs and symptom checks

Immobilization — why it matters

External-beam immobilization is a pelvic mold. Brachytherapy uses an applicator for a short time so a high dose reaches the cervix while sparing more bladder and rectum. You will be told exactly what you will feel.



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.

- **Bowel and bladder** irritation during external beam.
- **Fatigue and blood counts** with chemotherapy.
- **Vaginal** soreness; later narrowing if we do not teach prevention.
- **Rare / serious.** Heavy bleeding, fever, clot symptoms, or you cannot void.

What this means for you at CureRays

The aim of a curative course is to control the cervix and nodes. We will not quote a personal cure percent. We will show you the calendar and the supports.

Questions to ask

- What is my stage in one sentence?
- When is brachytherapy, and what will I feel?
- How do we keep the overall treatment days on time?
- What sexual-health and dilator plan do you recommend?

How to schedule or learn more

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