PATIENT EDUCATION

# Penile 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?

Penile cancer is uncommon. Most cases are squamous cancers on the glans or shaft, often tied to HPV or chronic inflammation. Care is led by urology. Surgery can be organ-sparing for small tumors. Radiation (external, and sometimes brachytherapy at a specialty center) is an option for selected early tumors when keeping the organ is a shared goal, and for nodes or symptoms in other settings.

## What you may notice

- A sore, lump, or color change on the penis that does not heal
- A groin node that stays enlarged
- Pain, bleeding, or trouble with the foreskin
- Embarrassment delaying care - you will be treated with respect here

## Usual care — the big picture

A biopsy confirms the diagnosis. Circumcision is often part of exposing and treating a glans tumor. Sentinel-node or groin surgery is used when nodes are at risk. Chemotherapy is added for more advanced disease. HPV vaccination still helps family members.

**Where CureRays may fit.** CureRays can deliver image-guided external radiation for a selected primary or for nodes when urology agrees. If you need interstitial brachytherapy we do not offer, we will refer. Confirm the organ-sparing versus surgery trade-off before day 1. This is not a consent form.

## What radiation treatment usually involves

- Joint review with urology and, when needed, medical oncology
- Simulation with a reproducible setup and skin shielding of uninvolved tissue
- A multi-week course for many intact-organ plans; shorter for a painful metastasis
- Skin-care teaching on a sensitive site - we will be specific and private

## Immobilization — why it matters

A custom rest or mold keeps the treated area still and spares as much nearby skin as the plan allows. You go home after each visit. Ask for a chaperone if you want one.

## 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.

- **Skin reaction** on the penis or groin - expected; call if it opens or smells.
- **Urinary burning** if the urethra is near the field.
- **Fatigue.**
- **Rare / serious.** Fever, inability to void, or heavy bleeding.

## What this means for you at CureRays

The aim for selected early tumors is to treat the cancer and keep sexual and urinary function as well as possible. We will not invent a success percent. We will say what follow-up exams you must keep.

## Questions to ask

- Is organ-sparing radiation realistic for my tumor size and grade?
- Do the groin nodes need surgery, radiation, or both?
- What does skin care look like week by week?
- When is intimacy safe, and what should I watch for?

## How to schedule or learn more

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