



PATIENT EDUCATION

Vaginal 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?

Primary vaginal cancer is uncommon. Many vaginal tumors are actually spread from the cervix, uterus, or vulva — the distinction matters. HPV is a risk for squamous vaginal cancer. Radiation with or without chemotherapy, often including brachytherapy, is a main treatment because surgery that removes the vagina is life-changing and not always needed.

What you may notice

- Bleeding, discharge, or a mass
- Pain or urinary/bowel change if the tumor is larger
- A history of cervical dysplasia or cancer
- Questions about intimacy and dilators — please ask

Usual care — the big picture

GYN oncology and radiation oncology share care. Staging exams and imaging decide external beam and internal treatment. Sexual-health teaching is part of care, not an extra.

Where CureRays may fit. CureRays delivers external pelvic radiation and coordinates brachytherapy for selected vaginal cancers. We will explain each applicator visit. Confirm the diagnosis is truly vaginal origin with your GYN oncologist.

What radiation treatment usually involves

- Exam under a plan you understand; a chaperone is routine
- Pelvic external-beam course if indicated
- Brachytherapy as scheduled
- Skin, bowel, bladder, and dilator teaching

Immobilization — why it matters

External immobilization is a pelvic mold. Internal treatment uses an applicator for a short, planned time. We will tell you about pain medicine beforehand.



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, bladder, and vaginal** soreness.
- **Fatigue** and skin in the folds.
- **Later narrowing** — prevention with moisturizers/dilators as taught.
- **Rare / serious.** Heavy bleeding, fever, or clot symptoms.

What this means for you at CureRays

Rare cancers deserve a team that treats them. If we recommend a referral to a high-volume GYN radiation center, that is in your interest.

Questions to ask

- Is this a primary vaginal cancer or spread from another site?
- Will I need brachytherapy, and what will I feel?
- What is the intimacy and dilator plan?
- Who follows me after the course?

How to schedule or learn more

CureRays Radiation Medicine® — 300 Sierra College Drive, Suite 150, Grass Valley, CA 95945

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