

## Brachytherapy frequently asked questions

On this page you will find answers to common asked questions and queries.

### Am I radioactive?

No, however if you are having seed brachytherapy you will be given some instruction regarding radiation protection.

### Will it hurt?

The procedures should never hurt, however sometimes they can be uncomfortable.

### Am I left on my own during treatment?

Yes you are left alone but we have cameras watching you at all times and we can interrupt the treatment if you need us.

### What are the side effects?

Each treatment area has different side effects, you will be given a leaflet before your treatment starts and a discussion with a radiographer or doctor to discuss any queries you may have.

### Who is delivering the treatment?

All the staff that deliver brachytherapy treatments are therapeutic radiographers. They are specialist staff trained in brachytherapy principles and practice. They are there to answer any brachytherapy- related questions you have and to support you through your treatment.

### Can I miss treatments if I don't feel like coming?

Missing treatments should be avoided. Brachytherapy treatment is designed to be most effective when delivered according to a fixed schedule. In certain circumstances your clinical oncologist may authorise a gap in treatment if you are very unwell, but these gaps usually have to be compensated for by extending the overall number of appointments or giving two treatments in one day, at least six hours apart.