



Radiation Treatment Overview Abdomen



During treatment, side effects MAY include:

Common:

- Fatigue
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea and cramping
- Red and dry skin
- Loss of appetite and weight loss
- Abdominal discomfort
- Indigestion or upset stomach

Less Common:

- Reduced blood counts

Rare but may be serious:

- Damage or obstruction to the intestine or bowel. This may require surgery.
- Change in liver function or liver damage. This may cause swelling and yellowing of the eyes and skin.

After treatment is finished, side effects MAY include:

Common:

- Abdominal discomfort
- Indigestion or upset stomach
- New sensitivities to foods

- Increased number of bowel movements
- Loose bowel movements

Less Common:

- Change in liver function. This may cause swelling and yellowing of the eyes and skin.
- Stomach or small bowel ulcers. These can be painful and may require surgery.

Rare but may be serious:

- Damage or obstruction to the intestine or bowel. This may require surgery.
- Kidney damage that causes a change in kidney function
- Liver damage. This can lead to inflammation (hepatitis) or liver failure which can cause death.
- Increased risk of rib fracture
- Risk of an injury to any part of the body that has received radiation during treatment. This may be serious, require major surgery and could be life threatening.
- There is a very low risk that a new cancer will be caused by the radiation in the future.

The severity of these side effects will vary from person to person. If you are having chemotherapy during your radiation treatments, side effects may be worse. When you begin your radiation treatments, the radiation therapists will give you information to help you manage the side effects. You will also be able to meet with your radiation oncologist during your treatments to talk about any side effects that you may have.

This list may not apply to all of your radiation treatment. Please speak to your radiation oncologist to understand what to expect from your treatment.