Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer: Gold Seed Procedure

This handout will give you information about your Gold Seed Procedure. It is important that you also read the handout: “Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer: How to Prepare for Your Procedure”. Your oncologist will tell you what kind of anesthetic you will be given.

What are Gold Seeds?

Gold seeds allow your oncologist to see where your prostate is each time you have a radiation treatment. The gold seeds are not radioactive. They will stay in your prostate. Pictures of your pelvis (see example below) will be taken before every radiation therapy treatment.

![Example of Prostate with Gold Seeds](image)

What happens in this procedure?

You will have your Gold Seed Procedure in the Radiation Therapy department. Your radiation oncologist will put an ultrasound probe into your rectum. This allows your radiation oncologist to see your prostate. Needles will be put through your perineum (area between your scrotum and anus) and into your prostate. 3 gold seeds will be put into your prostate through the needles. The needles and the ultrasound probe are taken out after the seeds are put in. It will take 30 minutes to have this procedure done.

Please talk to any member of your healthcare team if you have questions or do not understand any of the information in this handout.

If you have a problem or concern about a cancer related symptom

1. Call your primary nurse at the cancer centre from 8:30 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday (except on holidays). Your primary nurse will have given you the number to call.

2. Call the After-hours Symptom Management Telephone Service at 1-877-681-3057.
   - From 5 pm to 8:30 am, Monday to Friday.
   - On weekends and holidays at any time of the day or night.

If you are having a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to you.

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