Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer: Having a SpaceOAR® Procedure

This handout will give you information on having your SpaceOAR® 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 is a SpaceOAR®?

A SpaceOAR® is a soft gel like substance (hydrogel) used to make a space between your prostate and your rectum (see the pictures below). This space will help protect your rectum during your radiation treatment and lessen your side effects. Your SpaceOAR® procedure will be done before you start your external beam radiation treatments.

Having your SpaceOAR® procedure

You will have your SpaceOAR® procedure in the Radiation Therapy Department. Your radiation oncologist will put an ultrasound probe into your rectum. This allows the radiation oncologist to see your prostate. A needle will be put into the area behind your prostate. Two liquids will be inserted into this area through the needle. When put together, these liquids make the hydrogel. This procedure will take 30 minutes.

The SpaceOAR® hydrogel is absorbed into your body after 3 months. You will not have any side effects from this. After 3 months, it will leave your body through your urine. This is expected and will not cause you any discomfort.
Please talk to any member of your healthcare team if you have questions or you 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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