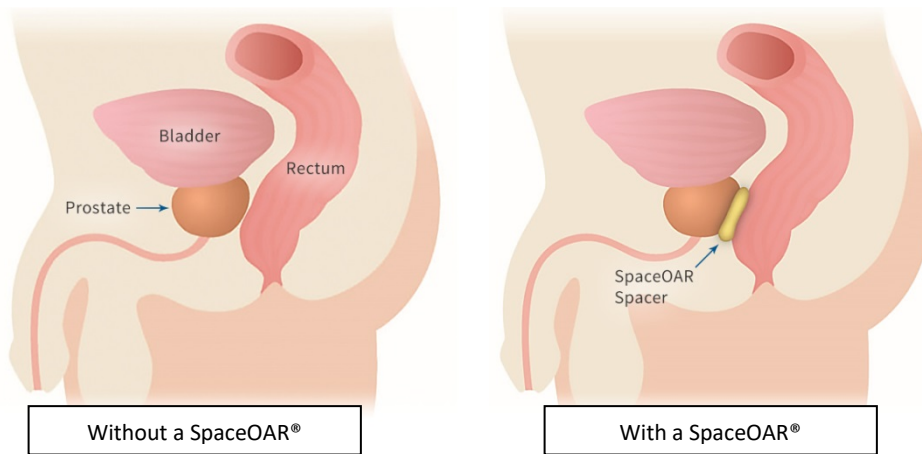


## Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer: Having a SpaceOAR® Procedure

This handout offers information on 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 (a medication to put you to sleep) you will receive.

### 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.

**If you have a problem or concern about a symptom or side effect from your cancer treatment:**

1. Call your primary nurse at the cancer centre from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm, (except on holidays). Use the phone number your primary nurse gave you.
2. Contact CareChart Digital Health from Monday to Friday, 5 pm to 8:30 am and anytime on weekends and holidays for symptom management support.

Talk to a nurse using one of these options:

- Call the after-hours telephone line at 1-877-681-3057.
- Request a video call by going to [www.carechart.ca](http://www.carechart.ca).
- Use the CareChart Digital Health App. This App is available to download for iOS or Android devices.

Call 911 or go to the emergency department at the hospital closest to you for a medical emergency. Talk to a member of your healthcare team if you have questions or do not understand any information in this handout.

Last reviewed: September 2024