Proton Therapy is the Solution for Many Patients with Prostate Cancer

How do I know if proton therapy will work for me?
Many patients with prostate cancer are good candidates for proton therapy. If you would like to better understand the use of proton therapy in your treatment, we can work with you to schedule a consultation with a radiation oncologist. During the consultation, the radiation oncologist will discuss different treatment options with you and determine if you will benefit from proton therapy. The radiation oncologists who practice at SCCA Proton Therapy Center and UW Medicine use many forms of radiation to treat prostate cancer. They will provide you with an expert treatment recommendation for your consideration.

How many proton treatments will I receive?
Treatments are given 5 days a week for 8 to 9 weeks, depending on the stage of your cancer and other factors.

Can proton therapy be used along with other kinds of cancer treatment?
Yes. Proton therapy can be used in conjunction with surgery and hormone therapy.

Is proton therapy covered by my insurance?
Proton therapy is covered by many insurance providers, including Medicare.

SCCA Proton Therapy Center has financial counselors who are dedicated to guiding you through the insurance process. Please contact us at 888-984-7782 if you have questions about coverage.

Transforming Cancer Care with Proton Therapy

To learn more about proton therapy or to request a consultation, please call the SCCA Proton Therapy Center at 877-897-7628 or email info@seattleprotons.org.


SCCA Proton Therapy Center
On the campus of UW Medicine’s Northwest Hospital & Medical Center
1570 N. 115th Street

Proton therapy is a good choice for your prostate cancer if you have cancer that has not spread outside of the prostate and pelvic into other parts of the body such as the bones.

More than 241,000 new cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed in men every year.

For most patients with prostate cancer, radiation therapy is a treatment option. Proton therapy can decrease risk of damage to surrounding organs caused by excess radiation.

Proton therapy is precise, and therefore better able to avoid surrounding organs. The radiation dose deposited by protons increases gradually until it peaks suddenly, called the Bragg Peak, and then falls to zero. Radiation oncologists can control where the Bragg peak occurs, pinpointing it to peak exactly within the tumor.

What can you expect with proton therapy at SCCA Proton Therapy?

- Proton therapy is given in a state-of-the-art center with specialized medical equipment.
- Treatment and care are given by a team of specialized doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals.
- Most patients do not feel pain or discomfort during treatment. Side effects, if they occur, can be treated with medication prescribed by your radiation oncologist.
- The time spent delivering proton therapy to the tumor is only few minutes, but the entire treatment session may take 20 minutes.
- Many of our patients are able to work full time.

Source: ProCure Training and Development Center

What are the advantages of proton therapy versus X-ray radiation for the treatment of prostate cancer?

While proton therapy and X-ray radiation therapy both treat prostate cancer by killing cancer cells when they attempt to divide and multiply, there is an important difference. X-ray therapy can deliver excess radiation that can cause side effects to the sexual organs, bladder and bowel. Protons can be better controlled to release most of their energy within the tumor.

One study found that patients with prostate cancer treated with proton radiotherapy do not experience testosterone suppression from the radiation treatment. Testosterone is the major male hormone that controls sex drive and overall energy and stamina. Clinical trials have also shown that patients with low-risk and intermediate-risk prostate cancer can be treated with proton therapy with cure rate of 99% at 5-years, with 1-2% risk of serious side effects and great quality of life reported.

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