

support the foundation

Our Foundation relies on the support of others to ensure we can continue with our commitment of providing world class care, education and research for skin disorders. See below for the range of ways on how you can support us.

fundraise

Start fundraising with friends and family. Sign up for an existing event in your region or create your own event with our online Foundation fundraising page. Simply visit our website and refer to the 'fundraise now' button on the home page for your convenience.

Alternatively don't hesitate to contact us:
t: 03 9623 9400 e: fundraise@skincancer.asn.au

donation

Donate to our cause today. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Simply visit our website and refer to the 'donate now' button on the home page for your convenience.

Alternatively don't hesitate to contact us:
t: 03 9623 9400 e: donate@skincancer.asn.au

bequest

If you wish to make a bequest a member of our Foundation is available to talk with you regarding your preferred option in addition to discussing our recognition of support program.

t: 03 9623 9400 e: bequest@skincancer.asn.au



Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc

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DISCLAIMER: Content in this brochure is provided for general information only. It is not intended as medical advice, and should not be relied upon as a substitute for consultations with qualified health professionals who can determine your individual medical needs.



radiotherapy clinic

the skin & cancer foundation inc

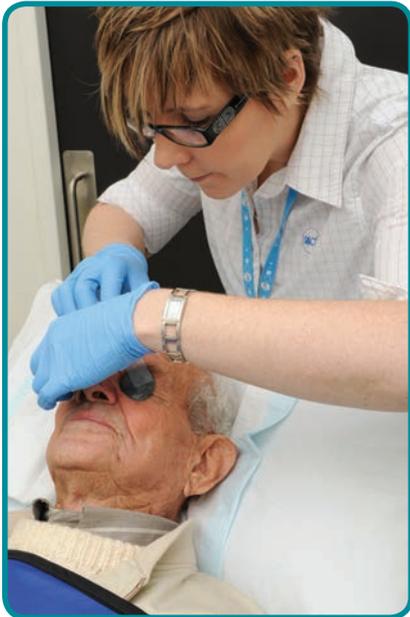
The Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc is Australia's leading specialist dermatology centre. It is a not-for-profit organisation specialising in the treatment, education and research of skin disorders.

Established in 1987, the Foundation offers patients peace of mind knowing that their skin is in expert hands. The Foundation provides the best in dermatology industry standards, and professional advice.

radiotherapy - what is it

Radiotherapy (or Radiation Therapy) is used for the treatment of most types of skin cancer. It involves the use of high energy x-rays focused on the area to be treated. These x-rays are similar to those used in diagnostic x-rays, except they are slightly stronger. Shielding is used to protect areas that do not require treatment.

Radiotherapy has a cure rate equal to that of surgery and is often the treatment of choice when surgery is difficult or not suitable because of other medical conditions.



during your consultation

At your first appointment, your dermatologist will assess your tumour and decide on how much is to be treated and to what dose. This information is provided to your therapist who will see you after your dermatologist assessment to take some measurements, determine what shielding is required and calculate the time needed to deliver your prescribed dose.

Shielding refers to protection of skin close to the treatment area. Shielding is customised for each patient. The time calculated refers to how long the machine needs to be on to deliver your dose and is generally only one to two minutes. You will not feel or see anything. This initial attendance is the longest session you will have. Each subsequent treatment will only involve putting on the shielding and receiving the treatment.

how often

Your dermatologist will prescribe a recommended total dose and this total dose will be broken down into fractions.

By treating in fractions, the diseased cells will eventually accumulate a level of radiation damage from which they cannot recover whilst limiting the harm to surrounding healthy cells. Diseased cells tend to repair damage from radiation more slowly than healthy cells.

Healthy cells however, should be able to recover from each treatment before being treated again.

what to expect during the treatment

At first, you may notice some reddening of the area being treated. Approximately ten days into the treatment, this redness may become more persistent. The treatment area may begin to develop some crusting or weeping at this time.

The radiation accumulates in the cells and ultimately leads to a level which will destroy the skin cancer cells. This means that the radiation will continue to work after you have completed your treatment course.

Your skin may become more red even after the treatment is finished. The crusting and weeping of the treated area will eventually stop and will reveal new skin beneath. By the time you are ready for your post treatment review, the area should be healed.

other side effects

There are no other immediate side effects. There is however, a very slight chance that a second cancer may develop in the same site over years or decades. There is also a chance that a radiation scar will develop after a few years. These scars are often waxy in appearance and may be a lighter color than the surrounding skin. Occasionally, the skin may also appear mottled. Blood vessels may become more easily seen.

how to look after the treated area

Care of the treated area is very simple. It is suggested that normal bathing with soap and water continue. If there is a large amount of ooze, then bathing the area with salt water (1 teaspoon of salt, 1 litre of boiled water – allow to cool) for a few minutes, followed by application of antibiotic ointment or antiseptic cream performed twice a day is recommended.

If you have had treatment on the nose or lip, then you may develop a reaction inside of the nostril or lip. This reaction is normal but can be uncomfortable. This may include ulceration of the lip or minor blood clots inside the nose. An ointment or cream may be prescribed for this if required.

You should not expose the areas to excessive amounts of wind or sunlight. Wear a hat or cover the treated area with a bandage. Care should also be taken to avoid trauma to the treated area.

other information

On the day of your appointment, please ensure that you bring along:

- Medicare Card / Veterans Card
- Pension / Health Care Card
- List of your current medications

Please inform our doctors if you take any anti-coagulant medication such as aspirin, Plavix or warfarin.

parking

There is metered parking available in the streets close by, in addition to 24 hour public parking off Pelham and Rathdowne Streets.