

**Schedule follow up appointments:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone List:**

Please call if you have any questions

Radiation Oncology Nurse \_\_\_\_\_

**› Electronic Brachytherapy**  
*What to expect for the  
treatment of endometrial  
cancer*

*"Radiation has always been a little scary to me, but the fact that the technicians could stay in the room with me during treatments increased my comfort level tremendously." -Sandra W.*



By now you and your physician have decided on a course of care that includes a localized radiation therapy called *vaginal brachytherapy*.

### What is Brachytherapy?

Brachytherapy is radiation therapy delivered over a short distance. Instead of using external radiation from outside the body, brachytherapy delivers the dose directly inside the body where the cancer was removed or next to the existing tumor. Brachytherapy is very important in the treatment of vaginal, cervical and uterine cancers and is most often performed as an outpatient procedure.

As an alternative form to radioactive isotope-based therapies, the Axxent Electronic Brachytherapy System® utilizes a miniaturized X-ray source.

### What is Electronic Brachytherapy (eBx)?

*eBx* utilizes a miniaturized X-ray source to deliver high dose radiation internally at low energy, allowing treatment to be delivered in a minimally shielded environment. This makes *eBx* accessible to more patients and treatment locations.

### *eBx* for Endometrial Cancer

*eBx* for endometrial cancer delivers the localized radiation treatment through a vaginal applicator (a cylinder-shaped device). While each clinical setting will have a different treatment routine, you might encounter the following:

- Insertion of a vaginal applicator
  - The process should not be painful, but you may feel some pressure
- Radiation technician may take a CT or X-ray image to verify the position of the vaginal applicator
- Treatment plan is determined by your physician and radiation treatment is delivered
  - Treatment will take approximately 10 minutes

### Advantages of *eBx* Vaginal Brachytherapy

- Reduced radiation dose to healthy tissue, such as bladder and rectum, as compared to radioactive isotope treatments
- Patients do not need to be isolated during treatment because of the safety characteristics of the *eBx* system
  - Medical personnel can be with you in the room
- Radiation can be turned on and off with the touch of a button with the Axxent *eBx* System, unlike radioactive isotope-based therapies

### Potential side effects of vaginal brachytherapy may include:

As with any medical procedure, there is a risk of side effects. These side effects are highly individualized and can vary in intensity, frequency and duration. It is important that you discuss your situation and personal risk level with your doctor before deciding on any course of treatment.

Please follow all of your physician instructions. Your physician may ask you to report the following:

- Vaginal irritation and discharge
- Diarrhea
- Discomfort when urinating
- Narrowing and dryness of the vagina (ask your doctor how to manage these changes to limit these effects)

They will usually resolve after treatment ends.

