Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Side Effects of Palliative Radiation Therapy to the Brain

MSK nurse practitioner Carol Ann Milazzo describes side effects commonly associated with radiation therapy to the brain.

Radiation can make you feel temporarily fatigued. Other common temporary side effects may include hair loss, headaches, nausea, and short-term memory impairment.

You may want to ask your doctors about how to manage these potential side effects during and right after radiation.

Please visit www.mskcc.org/videos/side-effects-palliative-radiation-therapy-brain to watch this video.

This video was published in September 2013. It was last reviewed for accuracy in October 2026.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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