

Skin Cancer

Skin Cancer is the most common of all cancers. More than 3.5 million cases of Basal and Squamous Cell Skin Cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. A more serious type of skin cancer, Melanoma accounted for 76,600 cases last year. Basal and Squamous cell cancers which are very common and very treatable are most often found in sun-exposed areas of the skin such as the head, neck and arms.

Radiation Treatment for Skin Cancer

Electron Beam Radiation Therapy (EBRT) is most often used to treat cancers of the skin. The beam of electrons only penetrates as far as the skin. The radiation is aimed precisely at the area of the skin where the lesion is located. The treatments are short and painless. Radiation may also be used after surgery to kill any remaining cancer cells.

Patient Spotlight

The patient is a 90 year-old female with a long-standing history of sun related skin changes and now has a large 3.5 x 3.0 cm biopsy proven squamous cell carcinoma of the left hand. There is a second similar appearing lesion on the same hand and a smaller one on the right hand.

Treatment

The patient received radiation to the lesions on both hands using EBRT to a total dose of 70 Gy in 35 fractions. (6600 cGy, 33 fractions to the right hand, 7000 cGy, 35 fractions to the left hand.)

Post-Treatment

The patient reported no complaints or symptoms regarding her diagnosis or treatment. Each of the lesions have had complete response to radiation therapy with no evidence of residual or recurrent disease.

Treatment at Alliance Cancer Center in Greenville

Treatment plans will depend on several factors, including the exact location of the lesion, type of skin cancer and the age and general health of the patient. Radiation is delivered painlessly in a series of short daily sessions. The Radiation Oncologist works collaboratively with the patient's surgeon and/or medical oncologist to ensure excellent and appropriate care throughout the treatment.

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