

Prostate Brachytherapy

Cesium-131 radioactive permanent implants
(To be used with the “Prostate Seed Implant patient instruction” booklet)

Cesium-131 isotope is the highest energy and shortest half-life (9.7 days)
isotope used for brachytherapy

The procedure:

The brachytherapy implant procedure is performed under an approximately 1 hour general anesthesia procedure as an outpatient in the hospital. You may be discharged with a “foley” catheter to drain the urine overnight as some men may have difficulty urinating immediately after the procedure due to prostate swelling. You will be instructed in how to remove the tube yourself the following morning. The needles will enter your body in the area between your scrotal sac and the anus. No dressing or special attention is needed. You may shower immediately if desired. You may experience blood in the rectum or urine for several days. Most patients have relatively little in the way of discomfort afterwards and may often resume normal activities by the second day. Please see the “patient instruction” booklet for more details. The implant is a “two-man” procedure done by a urologist and a radiation therapist together.

Post procedure:

Your discharge medications will include Cipro antibiotic, Vicodin (if severe pain ensues), Pyridium or Phenazopyridium for discomfort or urgent urination (turns the urine orange in color). Regular use of ibuprofen (eg. Motrin or Advil) three times daily is also very helpful if you are uncomfortable. You may also be given Flomax medication which can help a slow urinary stream. Take one to two at bedtime as needed. The pill lasts 24 hours.

You may begin to feel the effects of the radiation somewhere in the two to six week range after the implants are placed. These side effects may include urgent or frequent trips to the bathroom for either bowel movements or urination. The side effects usually taper off in the following weeks to months.

Make a follow-up appointment to see us two weeks after the procedure, **but contact us sooner if you do not think you are able to fully empty your bladder**. Approximately 4 weeks after the procedure we will obtain a noncontrast CT scan of the pelvis to document the location of the seeds and the total radiation dose you received. We will be rechecking your PSA level several months thereafter.

