

Proton Therapy for Patients with Prostate Cancer

Talk to your doctor about how proton therapy can help.

prostate

Precision Therapy. Fewer side effects.

Proton therapy is an advanced form of radiation cancer treatment that precisely targets tumors. Because this precision causes less damage to healthy tissue, proton therapy patients experience fewer side effects than with standard X-ray radiation. Proton therapy is effective in treating a broad range of tumors including prostate, brain, head and neck, central nervous system, lung, sarcoma, gastrointestinal and many pediatric cancers.

Compared to other forms of radiation therapy, proton therapy lowers radiation to surrounding critical structures such as the rectum and the bladder by as much as 60%. Men treated with proton therapy have a lower risk of side effects such as impotence and incontinence.^{1,3}

Particularly effective in treating prostate cancer.

Most men with prostate cancer are candidates for proton therapy, depending on the stage of the prostate cancer and the general health of the patient. Prostate cancer is typically treated with surgery, standard X-ray radiation therapy, or radioactive seeds (brachytherapy). However, to minimize damage to the bladder and rectum, which are near the prostate, the total dose of radiation that a patient can receive is often limited.

Proton therapy offers an excellent radiation treatment option. With protons, a higher dose can be delivered directly to the tumor site, which can result in better tumor control while largely sparing the bladder and rectum from radiation damage.¹ Studies have reported that proton therapy is as effective as X-ray radiation therapy but results in fewer and less severe side effects such as impotence and incontinence.³

¹ Vargas C, Fryer A, Mahajan C, et al. Dose-volume comparison of proton therapy and intensity-modulated radiotherapy for prostate cancer. *Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys.* 2008;70(3):744-51.

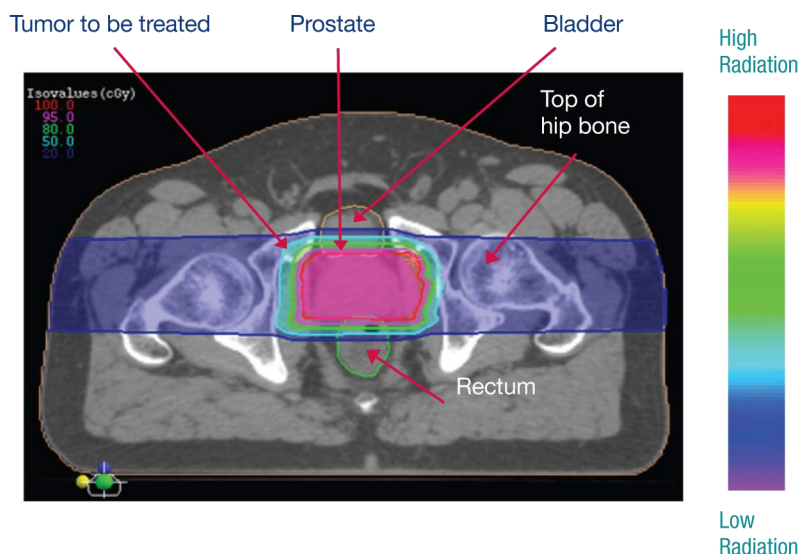
² Slater, J.D.; Rossi, C.J. Jr.; Yonemoto, L.T.; et al. Proton therapy for prostate cancer: The initial Loma Linda University experience. *Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys.* 2004, 59 (2), 348-352.

³ Hoppe, B.S.; Henderson, R; et al. Early outcome following proton therapy for prostate cancer in men 55 years old and younger. *Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys.* 2010, 78 (3), S373-374.

Prostate tumor treatment with protons.

With proton therapy, the rectum and the bladder receive much less radiation compared to X-rays/IMRT.

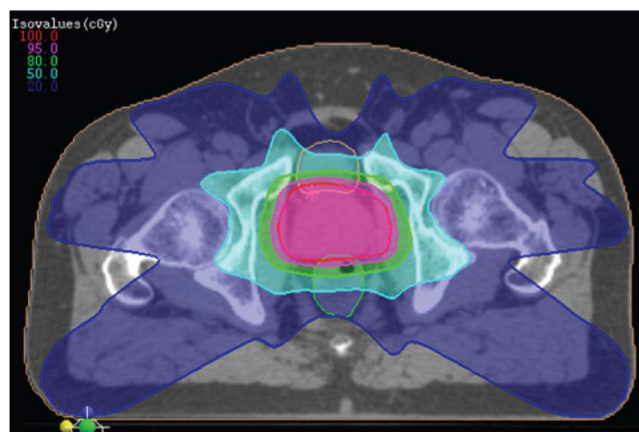
Grey/white area indicates no radiation exposure.



Prostate tumor treatment with X-rays/IMRT.

With X-rays/IMRT, more healthy tissue around the tumor receives radiation. The extra dose to healthy tissue from X-ray radiation therapy can be as much as several hundred thousand dental X-rays.

Colored area indicates radiation exposure.



Call a ProCure center for more information.

ProCure Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City 866-204-9863
ProCure Proton Therapy Center in New Jersey 877-967-7628

Source of treatment plans:
ProCure Training and Development Center.

ProCure
Proton Therapy Center

Be prepared when talking to your doctor about your treatment options, including proton therapy.

It is important to consider all of your treatment options before you decide on one. The first step is discussing your options, including proton therapy, with your doctor to determine the best treatment for you. Your doctor may not be as familiar with proton therapy as with other treatment options so be sure to **bring this sheet with you**.

Below are a few questions to help you discuss proton therapy with your doctor:

- Is proton therapy an option for me? What are the pros and cons?

- How does proton therapy compare with my other options?

- What short-term and long-term side effects or complications can I expect with each treatment option?

- How long would my treatment last—at each appointment and the entire course?

- Where do I go to receive proton therapy?

- Once I have decided a course of treatment, what are the next steps?

Frequently asked questions:

Can proton therapy be used in conjunction with other forms of cancer treatment?

Yes. Depending on the diagnosis, proton therapy may be used in combination with conventional radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy and/or as a follow-up to surgery.

Is proton therapy covered by most insurance plans?

Proton therapy is covered by most insurance providers nationwide and the U.S. Medicare program. The financial counselors at ProCure will work with you and your insurance provider to get you all the coverage information you may need.

What will I feel like during the course of my proton therapy? What are the side effects?

There is no discomfort or sensation during the actual radiation treatment. Most prostate tumor patients have few, or very mild, side effects from proton therapy. If you do experience any side effects they can be managed with medications, if necessary.

Proton therapy is a precise, effective option with fewer side effects than traditional radiation therapy.

To learn more about the benefits of proton therapy or to request a consultation, call our centers at:

ProCure Proton Therapy Center in Oklahoma City
866-204-9863
ProCure Proton Therapy Center in New Jersey
877-967-7628