

Patient handout

Talking about alpha therapy

A plain-language handout for patients and caregivers. Addresses common questions about "alpha radiation" and frames the precision-range advantage.

What is alpha therapy?

Alpha therapy is a type of cancer treatment that uses a very precise form of radiation, delivered through your bloodstream, that targets cancer cells directly.

Is alpha radiation dangerous?

All radiation deserves respect, and your care team takes detailed safety steps. The kind of radiation used in this therapy is unusual in one important way: it only travels a few cell-widths. That means it can do its job on cancer cells without traveling through your body the way other kinds of radiation do.

Why is the "short range" a good thing?

It means the energy is concentrated where it's aimed, and not delivered to tissues far away from the target. Your care team chose this treatment because that short range is part of what makes it effective.

What should I expect on treatment day?

You'll come in, have a quick check-in, get the medicine through an IV in a designated room, and be monitored for a short time afterward. You'll receive a separate handout with the full day-of-treatment timeline.

What about at home?

Your team will give you specific guidance for the first 24–48 hours after treatment. These steps are about contamination — meaning they keep small amounts of medicine that leave your body (mostly through urine) from spreading in your household.

Who do I call with questions?

Your care team will provide a direct contact for radiation-related questions. Keep it handy with your other discharge materials.