



## Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) Side Effects (Lung, Liver, Prostate, and Pancreas)

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is a type of external beam radiation that is used to kill cancer cells. This treatment is given in less treatment days and fractions compared to standard [radiation therapy](#).

### What are the side effects of SBRT?

The type and severity of side effects you have depends on many things, like:

- Where your tumor is.
- Which organs are near the treatment area.
- The amount (dose) of radiation given.
- How many treatments (fractions) you have.

Since a smaller area of your body is exposed to radiation during SBRT, there tend to be less side effects compared to standard radiation therapy. You may have side effects during or after SBRT. These side effects often go away.

After you are done with radiation, you may feel more tired, which is called [fatigue](#). This is normal and should improve about 3 to 4 weeks after treatment is done. You may also have skin issues such as redness, itching, or swelling in the treatment area. Your care team can help you manage these side effects.

There are some side effects that are specific to your cancer type.

#### Lung:

- [Shortness of Breath](#): You may have shortness of breath after treatment due to swelling of the lung from radiation.
- Cough: You may have a dry cough after treatment due to swelling of the lung from radiation. Ask your care team which over-the-counter cough medicine or cough drops to use.
- Chest wall pain: You may have pain in the chest wall or ribs after treatment. This is caused by swelling of the nerve endings in the chest wall.

#### Prostate:

- [Urinary Irritation](#): You may have urinary frequency (having to go often) and urgency (having to go quickly) after treatment.

#### Liver and Pancreas:

- [Nausea](#) or [Diarrhea](#): You may have nausea or diarrhea after treatment. These can often be managed with changes in your diet and medications.

Depending on where your cancer is, you may have other side effects. Your care team will talk to you about other possible side effects of your treatment.

### When should I call my provider?

Call your provider right away with any new or worsening symptoms, even if it has been weeks or months since your treatment has ended.

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