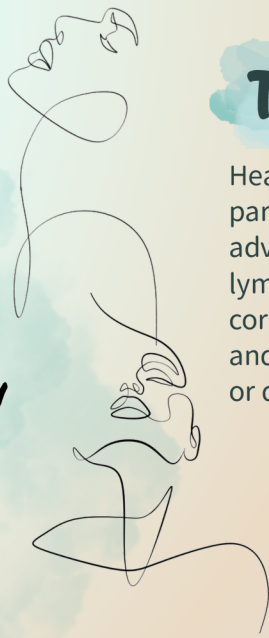


Radiotherapy in Head & Neck cancer



RT Techniques

Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT)

- Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT), also known as RapidArc, represents an advanced radiotherapy technique
- During VMAT treatment, the machine rotates 360 degrees while simultaneously adjusting the intensity, shape and dose rate. This allows for precise targeting of irregularly shaped tumors and sparing surrounding healthy tissues, reducing risk of side effects, such as sore throat and dry mouth
- Compared with conventional radiotherapy, VMAT offers the distinct advantage of significantly reduced treatment time, often just a few minutes. Patients are spared from prolonged immobilization on the treatment couch, reducing discomfort during treatment

Image-Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT)

- Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) is fully utilized in our centre. Image verification is conducted before each treatment, with a six-dimensional treatment couch to adjust patient positioning, ensuring precise tumor localization and minimizing displacement errors

Treatment Overview

Head and neck cancers, including nasopharyngeal carcinoma, thyroid cancer, oral cavity cancer or parotid gland cancer, can be effectively treated with Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT). This advanced technique delivers precisely modulated radiation dose to the primary tumor and cervical lymph nodes while minimizing irradiation to critical organs such as the esophagus, oral cavity, spinal cord and neural structures. Treatment plans are individualized according to tumor characteristics and personal needs, typically consisting of 25 to 35 sessions, aiming at achieving curative outcomes or durable local tumor control.

Features

Artificial Intelligence

- By incorporating the latest medical technologies, artificial intelligence is integrated into dosimetry procedures to enhance both efficiency and safety

Tattooless Skinmark

- Delivers precise treatment using the IGRT technique without permanent tattoos
- Eliminates pain and invasive piercing from tattoo marking procedure
- Eliminates cosmetic concerns

Professional & Efficient

- Surface-guided and IGRT techniques reproduce simulation position accurately
- Employs computerized automatic tracking and verification technology, imaging localization can be completed quickly before each treatment
- With the VMAT technique, treatment duration is reduced (substantially from 30 minutes to less than 10 minutes), increasing treatment effectiveness and accuracy

Research Development &

International Awards

We are dedicated to advancing and refining treatment technologies. Actively participating in international radiation dosimetry competitions, we have been recognized with multiple awards in various cancer contests. For more details, please refer to the “Radiotherapy Planning Awards” brochure.



St. Teresa's Hospital
Oncology Centre

RT Procedures & Notice

1) First Consultation

Our oncologists will listen and understand your situation carefully to tailor the most suitable radiation therapy scheme for you.

2) Simulation & Computed Tomography

A customized immobilization device will be created based on your body contour to ensure stable positioning, followed by a CT scan specifically for radiation dosimetry. This helps the oncologist to define treatment area and prescribe radiation dose accurately.

3) Treatment Plan Dosimetry

Our dosimetry team will compute a personalized treatment plan that precisely targets tumor cells while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissues.

4) Imaging Verification

Before each VMAT treatment, X-ray On-Board Images (OBI) or Cone-Beam CT scans (CBCT) will be used to verify target localization and positioning accuracy.

5) Treatment Position Verification & Adjustment

After image verification, we utilize a Six-Degree-of-Freedom (6 DoF) couch to adjust positioning effectively, enhancing treatment precision.

6) Treatment Delivery

Radiotherapy will be delivered according to your individualized treatment plan. Each session for head and neck cancer treatment typically lasts about 10 minutes.

7) Post-Treatment Care and Follow-Up

Throughout the treatment course and following completion, we closely monitor both therapeutic effectiveness and potential side effects.

Possible Side Effects & Management

Skin Reaction over Treatment Area

(Redness, Dryness, Itchiness, similar to sunburn)

- Avoid scratching or rubbing the skin at treatment area
- Avoid using lotions, talcum powder, alcohol, cosmetics, perfumes, or deodorants
- Avoid irritating the skin, stop using shampoo and skin products over treatment region, wear loose and breathable clothes, avoid exposure to sunlight
- Consult your oncologist for medication to relieve symptoms

Sore Throat or Difficulty in Swallowing

- Consume liquid food
- Consult your oncologist for medication to relieve symptoms

Dry Mouth (Xerostomia)

- Maintain oral hydration and hygiene practices to manage discomfort

Fatigue

- Get plenty of rest, maintain a balanced diet, and ensure adequate nutritional intake

Service Commitment

Our team has extensive experience in dosimetry and commits to completing your treatment planning and starting treatment within one week.

RT Charges

We commit to providing professional and high-quality medical services to patients from all backgrounds at reasonable fees. For details on charges, please refer to the "Radiation Therapy Charges" or call 2200 3493 for inquiries.



Contact Us

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Opening Hours

Monday - Friday

09:00-18:00

Saturday

09:00-12:30

Sunday & Public Holiday

Closed

Radiotherapy
in
Head
& Neck
cancer



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