

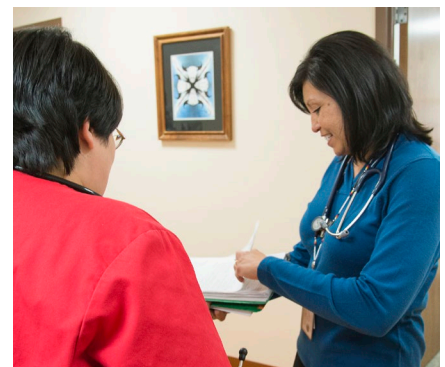
Side Effects of Radiation to the Head and Neck

After treatment for lymphoma

This handout lists possible short-term and long-term side effects that patients may have after receiving radiation treatment to the head and neck for lymphoma.

Short-term

- Skin irritation, redness, darkening, peeling (*desquamation*)
- Mouth sores that cause pain or trouble swallowing
- Hoarseness
- Fatigue (feeling very tired)
- Neck swelling
- Fluid in ears, which rarely may need drainage tubes
- Changes in how food tastes
- Dry mouth, thick saliva
- Swollen and painful glands
- Hair loss in treatment field (may not grow back)



Please talk with your care provider if you have questions or concerns about any of these side effects.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call Radiation Oncology at 206.598.4100.

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206.598.6190 and ask to page the Radiation Oncologist on call.

Long-term Side Effects

- Dry mouth with higher risk of tooth cavities – please talk with your dental provider about using fluoride toothpaste
- Decreased thyroid function

Rare Side Effects

- Hearing loss
- Neck swelling
- Cancers caused by the radiation (*secondary malignancy*)