



Radiation Simulation

Once you have decided to receive radiation treatment, you will be scheduled for a simulation. This simulation is the process where the radiation doctor (radiation oncologist) will work with the radiation therapists to define your area of treatment.

The simulation process is scheduled to take an hour, but the time may vary depending on the complexity of your treatment. Depending on the location of the cancer, you may be asked to change into a gown.

Here are the steps that occur during the simulation process:

1. Positioning Your Body

The radiation therapist will place you in a position that you will reproduce when you have treatments. This therapist might use a special device to help you hold the position. This position is the exact one you will need to be in for your treatments.

2. Defining Your Treatment Area

Your doctor will review previous CTs or X-rays to decide the area to treat with radiation. Then, you will have either a CT or more X-rays to define the treatment areas. These new CTs or X-rays are taken for planning purposes only.

The doctor may give you a contrast. Contrast is a solution that helps the doctor see certain parts of the body. Contrast can be given by mouth, through an IV or through a catheter inserted into either your bladder or rectum.

3. Marking the Area

After the CTs or X-rays are complete, the radiation therapist will mark the areas that will be treated.

These marks need to stay on. They will be used daily throughout your treatment. If your marks begin to disappear before your treatment date, please call our office at **(864) 455-6900**.

Depending on where you get marked, the marks may come off on your clothing. Be sure to wear clothing that you do not mind getting marks on.

Once the simulation process is complete, the doctor will work with the Physics department to plan your treatment. The CTs or X-rays that were taken during the simulation will be used to determine the best treatment for you. Because all treatments are tailored for you, this planning process can take several days.

The radiation therapist will schedule your return appointment, which is when your treatment will begin. Your first day generally takes longer than normal regular treatments, so you will need to come in during a specific time. After the first day, the radiation therapist will work with you to set up a regular treatment time that best fits your schedule.