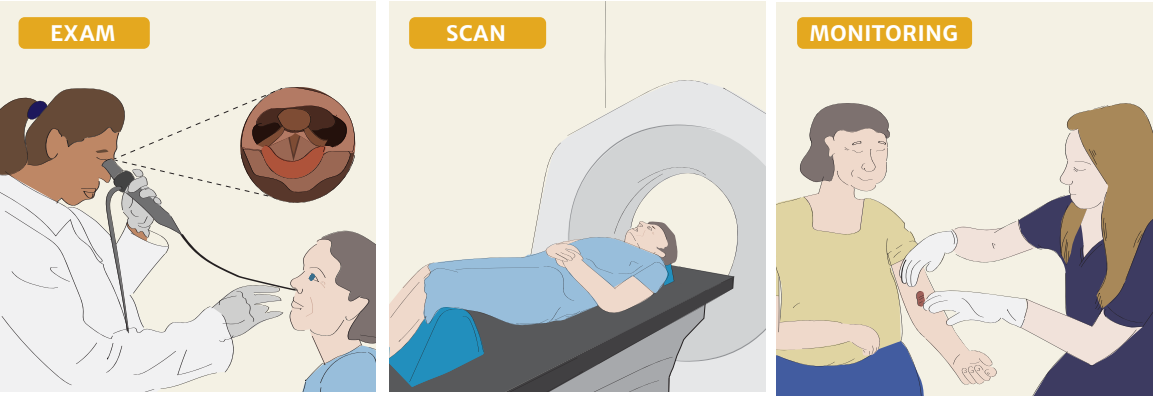


5 After treatment
Assessing radiation's effects on cancer and your body

- The effect of radiation is still at work in your body
- Side effects begin to subside 2–3 weeks after treatment ends
- Contact the clinic if your side effects worsen or are not improving
- You may be advised to follow a specific diet due to side effects

CONTINUING CARE

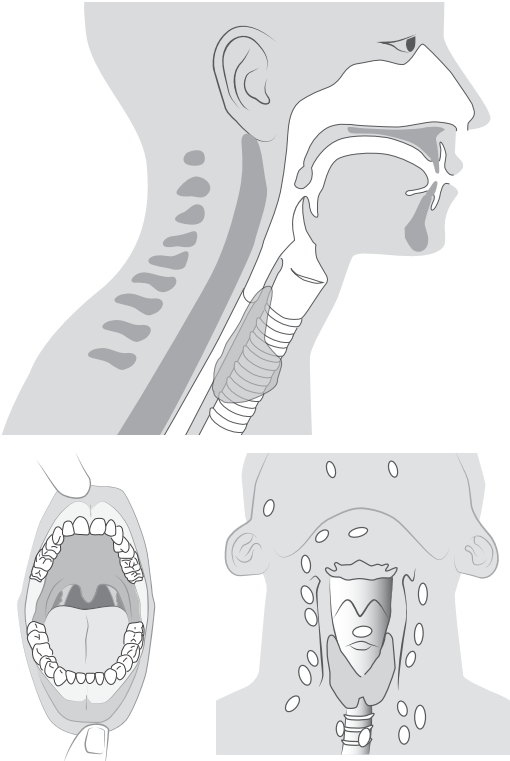
Doctors and nurses continue to monitor Helen long term. They watch for any side effects. Helen has a scan to check on the effects of the treatment. She exercises to maintain her well-being and health. She may have additional chemotherapy, surgery, or other treatments.



You should continue to see your doctors to ensure the cancer is going away. Your doctors will watch for any side effects from the treatment. You may continue to see other team members including speech therapists and dietitian.

My Information

DOCTOR'S SKETCHPAD



MY PLANNING SESSION

/ at : am pm

- Before my planning session, I need:
- ☐ a PET scan
 - ☐ a CT scan
 - ☐ an MRI scan
 - ☐ visit dentist
 - ☐ to stop medication(s)
 - ☐ bloodwork
 - ☐ get a haircut
 - ☐ a shave
 - ☐ limit food/drinks for ___ hours

- During my planning session, I will receive:
- ☐ a mask
 - ☐ marks
 - ☐ other
 - ☐ a mold
 - ☐ an IV contrast

Planning my treatment will take ___ days / ___ weeks

TREATMENT INFORMATION

Throughout treatment, I will see my doctor every M T W Th F

- Before each visit, I need to:
- ☐ take medication(s)
 - ☐ other

- You may require:
- ☐ a feeding tube
 - ☐ speech therapy
 - ☐ tracheostomy
 - ☐ a boost

Notes

MISSING APPOINTMENTS

- Contact us to reschedule
- Each missed day will be added to the end of your treatment schedule
- Long breaks between appointments could make your treatment less effective

CHEMOTHERAPY

You may receive chemotherapy along with radiation.

☐ daily (pill) ☐ every ___ week(s)

Chemotherapy may start before radiation and may continue after. You might require a 'port'.

Chemotherapy and radiation treatment have different side effects. You can contact either clinic with questions or concerns.

Other doctors on your care team: Medical oncologist (chemotherapy):

Surgeon:

Customize, and print phone number section from file: Avery5352 EBRT DiscussionGuide phone no.doc

TREATMENT TRACKER

___ visits

(___ boost treatments)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

This work was supported in part by the Radiation Oncology Institute. For more information: Dr. Dan Golden, dgolden@uchicago.edu This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution–NonCommercial–ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Make attributions to: IIT/Institute of Design and UChicago Medicine v.o8.22



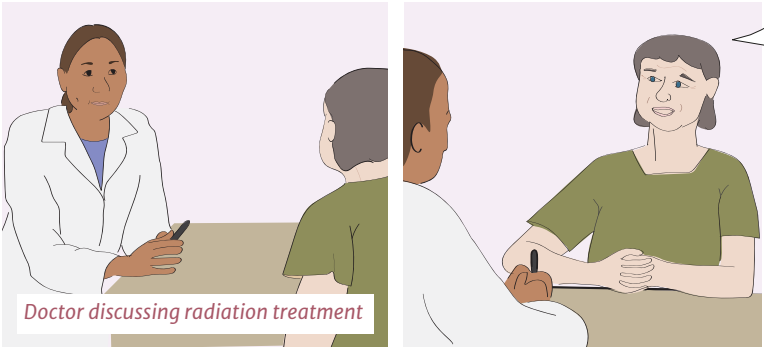
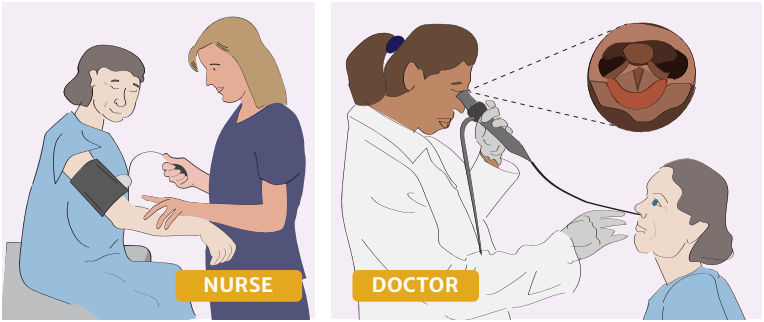
DISCUSSION GUIDE HEAD & NECK

Your radiation treatment pathway

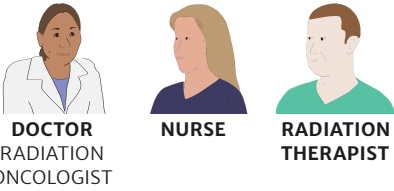
1 Consult
Discussing radiation treatment

Helen is about to receive radiation treatment for cancer. Helen's experience will give you an idea of what to expect. Your radiation treatment may be different.

Today, Helen is here for her first appointment. The nurse and doctor examine Helen. Helen and her care team discuss her radiation plan.



CARE TEAM



Other members may include Medical Assistant, Social Worker, Speech Therapist

What's the goal of my radiation treatment? I've heard some things about radiation. Are they true? Will the radiation affect my skin, teeth, or eyes? What side effects are more or less likely to occur? short term? long term? Will I be able to eat? How long will the treatment be? How will radiation affect my chemotherapy?

You may have to visit a dentist before the treatment starts. Your dentist may need to remove unhealthy teeth.

You may have a 'trach', or a feeding tube. These are okay to have during radiation.

Customize, print logo on: Avery6870/8257 EBRT DiscussionGuide Logo.doc

WHAT IS EXTERNAL BEAM RADIATION TREATMENT?

A machine delivers doses of high energy rays. These rays kill cancer cells in the head and neck areas.

HOW WILL RADIATION AFFECT ME?

Radiation will not hurt. You will not see, smell, or feel the radiation beams. In fact, you will not be able to tell that you are receiving treatment.

Some people may continue to work. You may engage with others and live a normal life while undergoing radiation treatment. However, please, allow yourself the time to heal and rest.

2–3 weeks into treatment, you may experience side effects like loss of taste, voice changes, or throat pain. Other side effects are possible. Your doctor will review these with you.

If you notice any changes in your health, tell your doctor or nurse. You can talk to your care team anytime.

2 Planning session

Determining the best treatment position

- Duration: 60–90 minutes
- This is called a ‘simulation scan’
- No radiation treatment happens today
- Radiation therapists position your head and neck for the best treatment. They will customize a mask and a mold to support you
- The therapists make notes about your position. This way they can put you in the same position for each treatment

Be sure to tell the therapist if you feel uncomfortable or if the mask is too tight. They will help you feel comfortable.

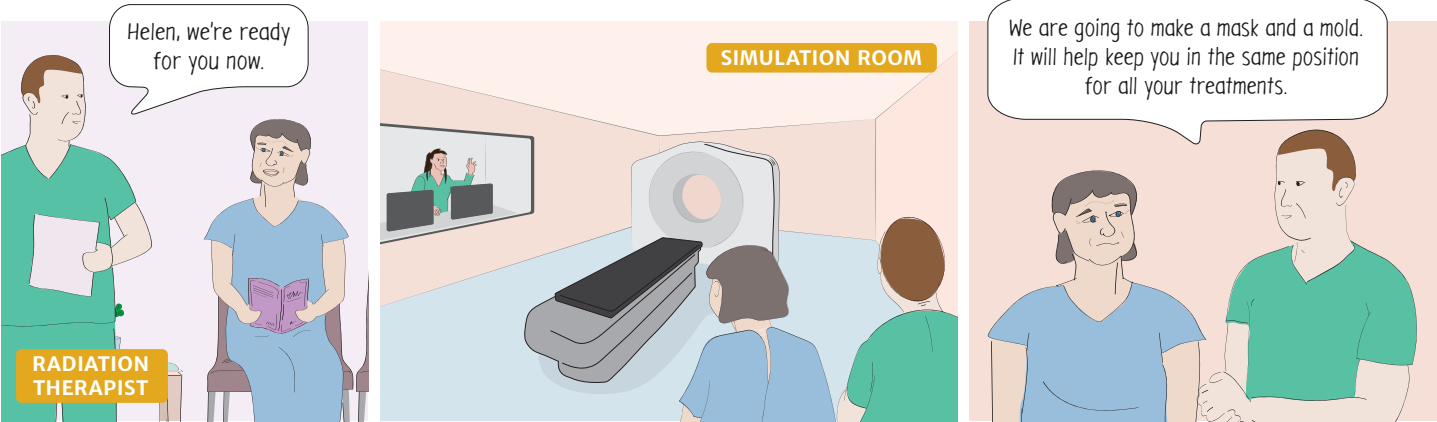
OTHER POSSIBILITIES



Open with mouth guard Full/shoulder

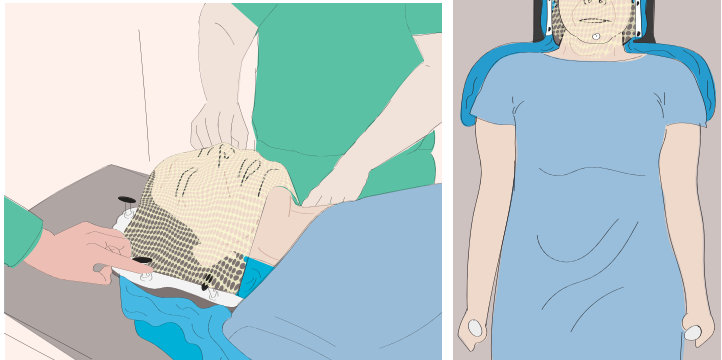
- an IV
- bolus
- eye shields

Your therapist may ask you to trim your hair, remove any jewelry, or remove dentures.



Radiation therapists position Helen with support behind her head and neck. They make a mold for her.

Radiation therapists also make a mask for her. Helen’s face feels warm when they fit the mask. They put marks on her mask to help align her to the beam.



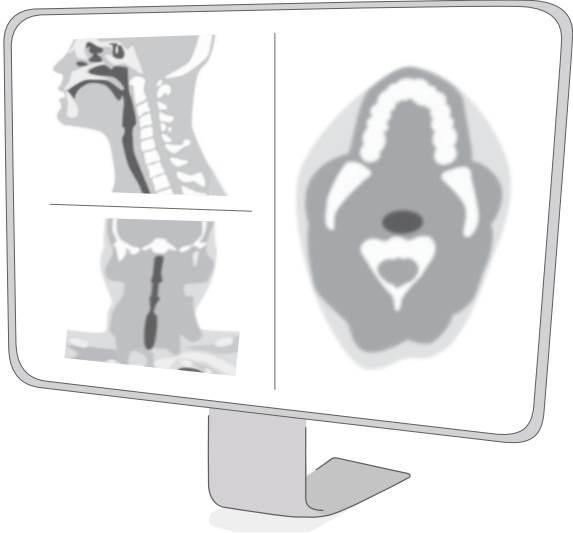
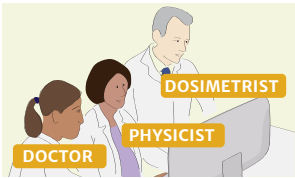
3 Treatment planning

Professionals create your custom plan

Your care team will use the planning scan to create your radiation treatment plan. Usually, this will take 5–7 work days.

Depending on your case, it might take more time to develop your plan.

Your plan targets your tumor site around the head and neck area. It limits the radiation dose on healthy tissues.



IN THE MEANTIME

Plan



- ☐ Arrange transportation to and from the clinic
- ☐ Coordinate with your family, your job, and other people so you can come for appointments and focus on healing

Prepare for treatment



- ☐ Get answers to your questions about insurance and/or billing
- ☐ Speak with a dietitian
- ☐ Meet with a speech therapist

Seek support



- ☐ Consider reaching out to friends, family, and others
- ☐ Speak with a social worker
- ☐ Your nurse can refer you to other support services if needed

4 Treatment

Visiting your clinic daily for radiation

- Duration: 15–45 minutes
- The first treatment is usually longer
- You will see your doctor and nurse at least weekly

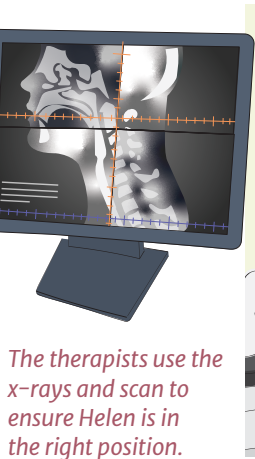
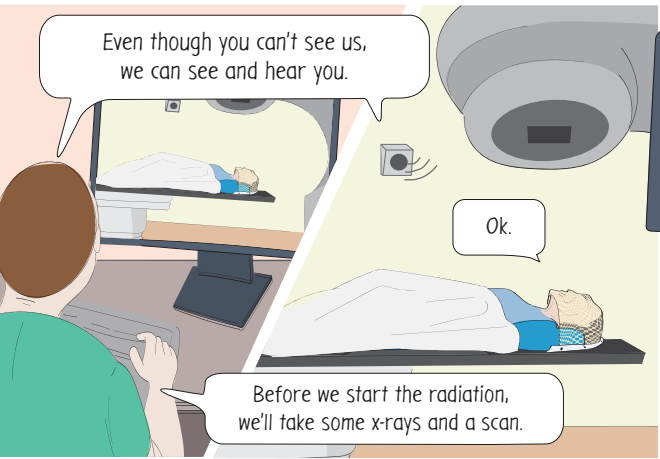
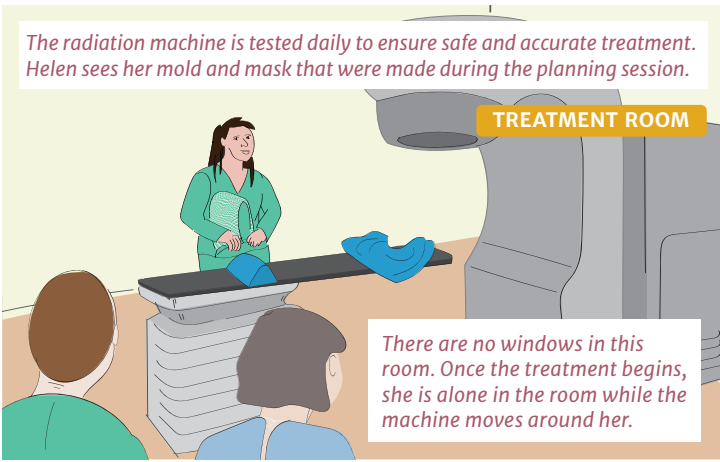
If you lose weight or the tumor shrinks a lot, you may get a new scan to adjust your treatment plan.

You might need a new mask or a new mold.

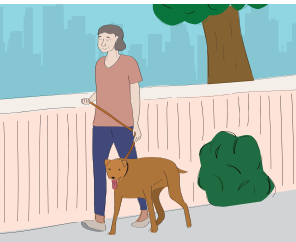
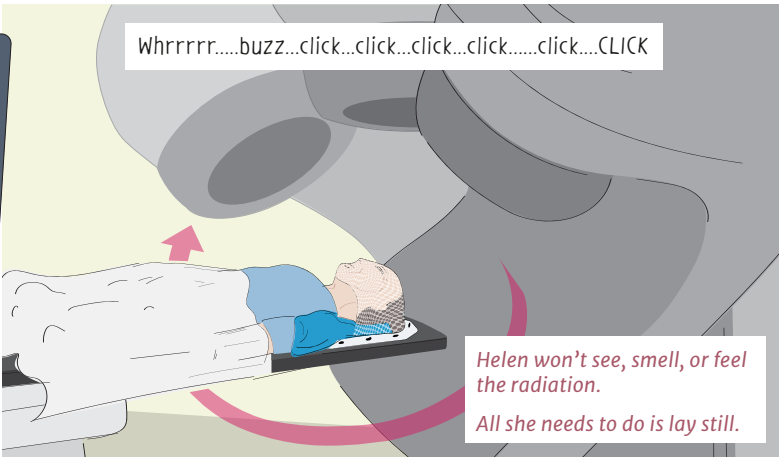


Today is Helen’s first day. She is a little nervous.

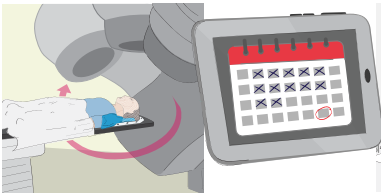
She notices that the machine looks different than the scanner used in planning.



The therapists use the x-rays and scan to ensure Helen is in the right position.



In between treatments, Helen goes about her day. She can safely be around her friends and family. She is not radioactive.



Her treatment soon feels routine.



Helen does regular mouth rinses.



Helen notices that her taste has changed. She mentions this to her care team.



WEEKLY DOCTOR VISIT



There is a 2–3 week delay in developing side effects.

TREATMENT

1–2 weeks

SIDE EFFECTS

Tell your nurse and doctor if you notice any changes in your overall health. They will give you instructions on managing side effects.

- Skin irritation take care of your skin
- Sore throat clean the mouth
- Dry mouth drink water
- Weight loss eat/drink well

Helen’s dietitian monitors her nutrition level.

