

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Does the machine (linear accelerator) touch me during treatment?**

No. In the case of external beam radiation therapy, the machine does **not** touch the patient at any time. It moves around the body to deliver radiation from different angles but never makes physical contact.

### **2. Can I move during the treatment session?**

No, you must remain completely still during the treatment. However, you are allowed to breathe normally, exactly as instructed by your radiation therapists. Staying still helps ensure the radiation is delivered precisely to the intended area.

### **3. Who are the professionals involved in my treatment?**

Your radiation therapy treatments will be administered by specialized professionals called radiation therapists. You will also have regular check-ups with your radiation oncologist, the doctor responsible to prescribe your radiation treatment. In addition, nursing staff will be available to answer your questions and support you in managing any side effects you may experience during your treatment.

### **4. Can I be around children and pregnant women after my treatment sessions?**

Yes, you can be around children, pregnant women, and anyone else you wish. There is absolutely no risk to others after you receive external radiation therapy. The radiation does not stay in your body, so it is completely safe to interact with others normally.

### **5. Do I need to prepare for the treatment?**

In some cases, yes. Your medical team will inform you if any special preparation is needed before your radiotherapy session.

For example, you might be asked to have a full bladder or an empty bowel, depending on the area being treated.

In certain situations, you may need to fast (not eat or drink for a period of time) or take specific medication before the treatment.

However, this does not apply to all patients. You will receive clear instructions during your planning appointment to help you prepare properly for each session.

### **6. Can I drive after my treatment session?**

Yes, in most cases you can drive after your radiotherapy session. Radiotherapy itself does not cause drowsiness or impair your ability to drive.

However, if you are feeling tired or if you have received other treatments (like certain medications or chemotherapy), it's best to check with your medical team first.