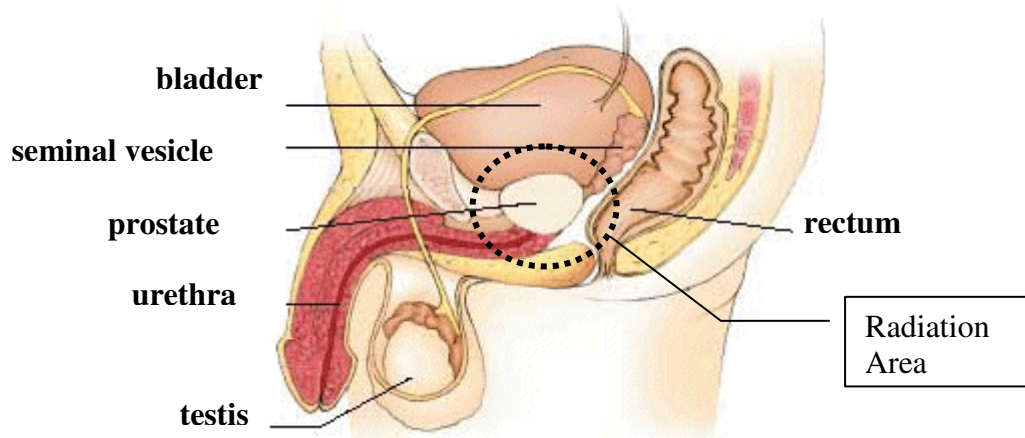


Short Term Radiation Side Effects with Prostate Cancer



The side effects of radiation vary by patient and are related to the dose and other problems the patient may already have. (Patients with large prostates or previous bowel problems like hemorrhoids or diverticulosis may have more side effects.)

Bladder Irritation and urethra – urinate more frequently or urgently (especially at night) with some burning or stinging. Drinking plenty of fluids (esp. cranberry juice) will help. For pressure getting the urine to flow may benefit from Flomax or Cardura , for marked irritability Detrol or Ditropan.

Rectal Irritation - diarrhea, bowel frequency, mucus , gas or rectal soreness or itching are common. Avoiding spicy or irritating foods, eating low residue diets and taking Imodium AD, Kaopectate or Pepto Bismal may be helpful. Rectal ointments or suppositories (e.g. anusol HC, nupercainal, preparation H, Tucks) or Sitz baths may be helpful.

Mild skin reaction can occur and aloe type creams are useful. Some men also notice fatigue. Nausea or vomiting is not expected.

For more information go to web sites: www.aboutcancer.com or www.wellspringoncology.org