

Patient Education Survey

Please complete the questionnaire below. It should take about 10-20 minutes of your time.

Thank you!

We are trying to understand what you know about anal cancer and its treatment. This questionnaire contains 30 multiple choice questions; please answer them to the best of your ability.

- 1) Since your anal cancer diagnosis, have you spent time researching or learning about this disease? Yes
 No
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- 2) Since your anal cancer diagnosis, have you spoken with another oncology doctor (medical oncologist, radiation oncologist or surgeon) about this disease? Yes
 No
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- 3) Which sources have you used to learn about anal cancer so far?
- Primary doctor/Doctor who diagnosed this cancer
 - Friend or family member
 - General internet search
 - Hospital webpage
 - Online support group
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Other Social Media
 - Other
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- 4) If you checked "other"- can you tell us a little bit about the additional sources/resources you used to learn about your cancer and its treatment? _____
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- 5) How much do you feel like you know/understand about anal cancer right now? Nothing at all
 A little bit
 Some
 Quite a bit
 A lot
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- 6) Which of the following is a risk factor for anal cancer? Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection
 Cigarette smoking
 Weakened immune system
 All of the above
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- 7) Which of the following is true about human papillomavirus (HPV) infection? It is transmitted through sexual or skin to skin contact
 It is a rare sexually transmitted disease
 It only infects people with more than 10 sexual partners
 There is no effective vaccine against it
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- 8) Which of the following tests is most helpful for measuring the size of an anal tumor? X-ray
 Digital rectal exam
 Endoscopy (camera scope)
 Computed tomography (CT) scan
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- 9) Which of the following tests is most helpful to determine if anal cancer has spread to lymph nodes in the pelvis? X-ray
 Digital rectal exam
 Endoscopy (camera scope)
 Computed tomography (CT) scan

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- 10) Which of the following is used to determine the overall stage of anal cancer?
- Size and extent of the anal cancer
 - Whether and which lymph nodes are involved with cancer
 - Spread of cancer to other organs outside the pelvis
 - All of the above
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- 11) What is the recommended curative treatment for most stage I, II and III anal cancer?
- Surgery alone
 - Radiation therapy alone
 - Chemotherapy alone
 - Radiation and chemotherapy given together
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- 12) Which is true about radiation therapy for anal cancer?
- It uses a beam of high-energy x-rays to destroy cancer cells
 - It uses radioactive seeds that are implanted in the tumor
 - It causes the patient to be radioactive during treatment
 - All of the above
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- 13) How often is radiation therapy given for anal cancer?
- 5 days per week for 2-3 weeks
 - 7 days per week for 2-3 weeks
 - 5 days per week for 5-6 weeks
 - 7 days per week for 5-6 weeks
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- 14) What is the radiation oncologist's job?
- Plan radiation therapy
 - Treat side effects from radiation therapy
 - Prescribe chemotherapy
 - Both 1 and 2
 - All of the above
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- 15) What type of surgery is usually needed if radiation and chemotherapy do not cure anal cancer?
- Removal of the tumor only
 - Removal of the anal canal, rectum and lymph nodes but NO PERMANENT COLOSTOMY
 - Removal of the anal canal, rectum and lymph nodes WITH A PERMANENT COLOSTOMY
 - None of the above
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- 16) What is done at a radiation simulation appointment?
- Make a mold to hold your body in the same position as it will be during treatment
 - Take a CT scan of your pelvis for radiation treatment planning
 - Deliver the first dose of radiation therapy
 - Both 1 and 2
 - All of the above
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- 17) What should you do to prepare for your radiation simulation appointment?
- Empty your bladder immediately before the appointment
 - Drink 16-20 ounces of water one hour before the appointment
 - Fast for 24 hours
 - Fast for 12 hours
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- 18) What is the most common position of the body for radiation treatment?
- Lying on your stomach
 - Lying on your back with your legs straight
 - Lying on your back with you legs in a "frog leg" position
 - Lying on your side

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- 19) How long will the radiation treatment appointments take each day?
- 2 minutes
 - 20 minutes
 - 2 hours
 - 6 hours
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- 20) After radiation treatments start, which additional visits will you need every week?
- Blood tests
 - Weekly clinic visits with the radiation oncologist
 - Chemotherapy infusions
 - All of the above
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- 21) Which of the following is a possible early side effect from radiation for anal cancer?
- Fatigue
 - Loss of hair on head
 - Diabetes
 - All of the above
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- 22) Where does radiation dermatitis ("skin burn") usually develop during radiation treatment for anal cancer?
- Face
 - Skin around the anus
 - Groin creases
 - Both 2 and 3
 - All of the above
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- 23) Which is a possible bowel side effect that can happen during radiation treatment for anal cancer?
- Sharp pain during bowel movements
 - Bleeding from the anus
 - Urgent bowel movements
 - All of the above
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- 24) Which strategy can help manage side effects from radiation treatment for anal cancer?
- Soak in a sitz bath to soothe irritated skin
 - Wear loose clothing for comfort
 - Eat a low fiber diet and take medications for diarrhea
 - All of the above
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- 25) When are radiation side effects usually the worst?
- First week of radiation treatments
 - Middle of the radiation treatments
 - Last week of the radiation treatments
 - 1-2 weeks after radiation treatments are done
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- 26) Which body part might be permanently damaged from radiation treatment for anal cancer, and what problem might the damage cause in the long-term?
- Brain; memory loss
 - Stomach; nausea and vomiting
 - Pelvic bones; fracture
 - All of the above
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- 27) Bowel habits can permanently change after radiation treatment for anal cancer. Which is a possible long-term/permanent bowel side effect?
- Inflammation of the bowel (proctitis) leading to bleeding and diarrhea
 - Narrowing of the anal canal (stenosis) leading to constipation and pain
 - Damage to the sphincter muscles leading to incontinence of stool
 - All of the above
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- 28) What is the approximate risk of radiation causing bowel damage so severe that a permanent colostomy bag is needed?
- 0%
 - 2-5%
 - 10-20%
 - 30-50%

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- 29) Sexual function can permanently change after radiation for anal cancer. Which is a common long-term sexual side effect?
- Priapism (unwanted erections that last more than 4 hours)
 - Vaginal stenosis (shortening and narrowing of the vaginal canal)
 - Increased libido (sex drive)
 - All of the above
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- 30) What treatment can help the long-term side effects of radiation treatment for anal cancer?
- Regular vaginal dilator use
 - Bone density testing and treatment of low bone density
 - Pelvic floor physical therapy
 - All of the above