

Patient Glossary

Magnetic Resonance Radiation Therapy (MR/RT)

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with cancer, you may hear medical terms that you don't understand. The following glossary includes some common terms relating to Magnetic Resonance Radiation Therapy (MR/RT), also referred to as Magnetic Resonance guided Radiation Therapy (MRgRT), and explanations of what they mean.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the information provided after you read this glossary, please talk to your healthcare provider.



External beam radiation therapy

External beam radiation therapy comes from a machine that aims high energy x-rays at your cancer. It is a noninvasive local treatment, which means it treats a specific part of your body.

Linear accelerator or Linac

A linear accelerator—commonly called a Linac—is the machine most commonly used in external beam radiation treatment for patients with cancer. It delivers high-energy x-rays or electrons to the region of the tumor.

MRI scanner

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner uses magnetic fields and radio waves to generate images of the organs in the body.

MR/RT

Magnetic Resonance Radiation Therapy (MR/RT) is a cancer treatment that combines the imaging capabilities of an MRI scanner with the power of a Linac, to deliver radiation therapy treatment that is tailored to you.

Noninvasive

A medical procedure performed without cutting open the body or removing tissue.

Radiation oncologist

A doctor who specializes in treating cancer with radiation therapy.

Radiation therapy or radiotherapy

The use of radiation to treat cancer and other diseases.

Simulation

Simulation is done to map your treatment area and plan your treatment, to make sure the target gets the right amount of radiation while limiting the amount of radiation to nearby tissues.

Treatment plan

A radiation oncologist's prescription describing how a patient should be treated with radiation therapy. The radiation oncology team uses special software to maximize radiation to the tumor while sparing healthy tissue.

Where can I go for updates and more information?

Please contact your healthcare provider with any questions/concerns.