

# Radiation Therapy for Pediatric Cancers with General Anesthesia

## What to Expect

Your child will receive external beam radiation with general anesthesia if indicated.

## Before Treatment

Typically for your first visit, your child will undergo a CT simulation to plan the radiation treatment. In some cases, general anesthesia may be indicated. During these simulations, a special immobilizing mattress and often a mask will be made for your child, depending on the diagnosis. The mask and mattress will help immobilize your child during radiation to ensure that the treatment is delivered to the same area every treatment.

## During Treatment

Your child will receive treatment Monday through Friday based on the plan that your radiation oncologist prescribes. After your child undergoes general anesthesia, he/she will be positioned carefully on the treatment table with the mask on if created. The radiation therapists will make sure your child is positioned appropriately for the treatment.

## General Anesthesia

Some children are unable to lie still or tolerate the simulation and treatment. In the event that is the case, a pediatric anesthesiologist will come from Children's Hospital to administer anesthesia to your child. Typically, the child is brought into the room awake with their parents, and the anesthesia is initiated via an accessed port or PICC line. After induction of anesthesia, the parents leave the room and the radiation therapy

procedures are performed. The anesthesiologist remains in the room with both the pediatric nurse and technologists and will monitor your child and manage the entire anesthetic. Once the radiation treatment is completed, the anesthesiologist will discontinue the anesthesia and the patient will be brought back to the pre-op room for recovery. The recovery period lasts about 30 minutes. Your child will be able to go home after this period.

You will be asked to bring your child to the clinic at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled treatment time for a pre-anesthesia visit. Your child will need to be NPO (no food or drink) before each treatment. You will be given instructions regarding how long fasting for both is required.

*\*General anesthesia side effects will be discussed with you by the anesthesiologist at every visit.*

## **After Treatment**

You will follow up with your radiation oncologist at their discretion.

## **Contact Us**

For any questions or concerns, please reach out to the radiation oncology clinic on MyChart or call **214-645-8525**.