

Your doctor has recommended that you have a procedure to implant a temporary spacer between your prostate and rectum prior to receiving radiation therapy to help keep your rectum safe. This spacer device called SpaceOAR® System (OAR stands for "organ at risk" which in this case is the rectum), helps protect your rectum during radiation treatments to the prostate. Naturally, you may have questions about how and why the procedure is done, and what to expect. This guide will help to answer many of the questions you may have about the procedure.

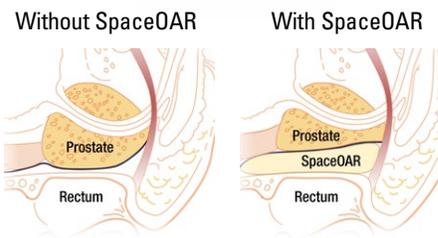
This guide is not intended to be a substitute for a thorough discussion with your physician.

move forward.



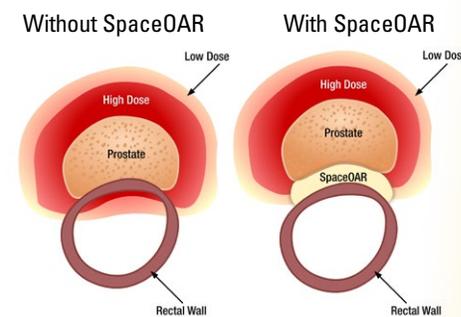
Why should I have SpaceOAR hydrogel?

The goal of radiation therapy is to maximize radiation to the prostate and to avoid radiating surrounding normal tissue. As you can see from the diagram, the prostate and rectum are very close and are only naturally separated by a small space. Due to this closeness, prostate radiation therapy can accidentally cause damage to the rectum.



What is SpaceOAR hydrogel and how will it benefit me?

SpaceOAR hydrogel is a gel-like material that temporarily moves the rectal wall away from the prostate during radiotherapy. By separating the prostate from the rectum, SpaceOAR hydrogel reduces radiation dose delivered to the rectum and may eliminate or reduce damage to the rectum. It may also allow your doctor to enhance radiation treatment to your prostate to better target the cancer or to reduce the total number of treatment sessions.



What is it made of and is it safe?

SpaceOAR hydrogel is made of two liquids that when combined form a soft gel-like synthetic material that is mostly made of water. Because of its water content it is called a hydrogel. The material that the SpaceOAR hydrogel is made from has been used in other implants such as surgical sealants used in the eye, brain and spine. Studies have shown that the material is biocompatible and can be used safely in the body.

Where is the procedure done and how long does it take?

The procedure is commonly done in a hospital, surgery center, outpatient clinic or doctor's office and usually takes less than thirty minutes.



A little space makes a BIG difference.™

How is it implanted?

SpaceOAR hydrogel is injected between the rectum and the prostate in a minimally invasive procedure.

Will I be awake or asleep during the procedure?

The procedure can be performed under general, regional or local anesthesia. You should discuss with your doctor which type of anesthesia is best for you.

Do I have to do any special preparation prior to the procedure?

While there is no required special preparation for the SpaceOAR procedure, your doctor may give you individual instructions on how to prepare for the procedure and for any anesthesia you will receive. Always ask your doctor what you should do in advance of the procedure.

Will I feel any discomfort or pain during or after the procedure?

Your doctor will either use an anesthetic that will put you to sleep during the procedure or a local anesthetic that will numb the injection area. You may feel a pinprick or pressure but should not feel any major discomfort. After the procedure you may experience some temporary discomfort at the injection site. SpaceOAR hydrogel patients typically report no prolonged discomfort from the implanted gel.

How soon can I go back to my normal activities?

You should be able to immediately resume your normal activities. Always be sure to check with your doctor for any restrictions associated with the procedure and your radiation treatment.

How long does it stay in my body?

SpaceOAR hydrogel separates your prostate and rectum for about 3 months providing protection during radiation treatment and is naturally absorbed in about six months - well after your last treatment.



What are the risks?

In addition to the risks associated with any medical procedure there are the potential complications that may be associated with the use of SpaceOAR System that include, but are not limited to: pain associated with SpaceOAR hydrogel injection; pain or discomfort associated with SpaceOAR hydrogel; needle penetration of the bladder, prostate, rectal wall, rectum, or urethra; injection of SpaceOAR hydrogel into bladder, prostate, rectal wall, rectum, or urethra; local inflammatory reactions; infection; injection of air, fluid, or SpaceOAR hydrogel intravascularly; urinary retention; rectal mucosal damage, ulcers, necrosis; bleeding; constipation; and rectal urgency.

This guide is not intended to replace professional medical care or advice. If you have any questions or need additional information about SpaceOAR System, please talk with your doctor.



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