

Pregnancy Test Before Radiation Therapy

Why it is needed and what to expect

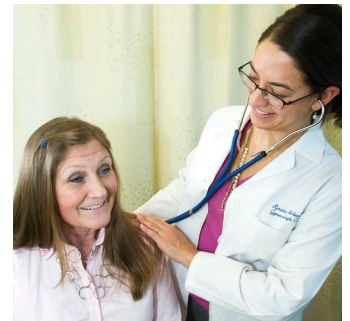
Why is testing needed?

Radiation can cause serious harm to an unborn baby. It may cause birth defects or even the death of the fetus. We must find out if you are pregnant before the start of your treatment. We want to make sure we do not harm a growing fetus.

Who needs to be tested?

Most females of childbearing age (aged 13 to 60) **must** provide a urine sample for testing before having their CT simulation. You do not need a pregnancy test if you:

- Are having a hysterectomy, tubal ligation, or bilateral oophorectomy (removal of ovaries)
- Have infertility caused by previous radiation to your pelvis
- Know you are pregnant
- Are post-menopausal
- Had a negative pregnancy test within the past 14 days



Talk with your oncologist if you have any questions.

When will the test be done?

The test will be done before or on the day of your CT simulation.

How is the test done?

We will ask you to provide a small urine sample for testing. Your results will be ready within 15 minutes. If you cannot provide a urine sample, your doctor may order a blood test.

What if my test is positive?

The Radiation Oncologist will talk with you about next steps.

What if I become pregnant during radiation?

You must either use birth control or avoid sexual intercourse while you are receiving radiation. If you think you may be pregnant, tell your Radiation Oncologist right away.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

Weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call Radiation Oncology at 206.598.4100.

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206.598.6190 and ask to page the Radiation Oncologist on call.