

# Perirectal Spacing Options

## For Prostate Cancer Radiotherapy

During radiation therapy for prostate cancer, there is a risk of rectal exposure due to the rectum's proximity to the prostate. At Ackerman Cancer Center, we offer two options to ensure maximum safety and minimum excess radiation exposure for prostate cancer patients.

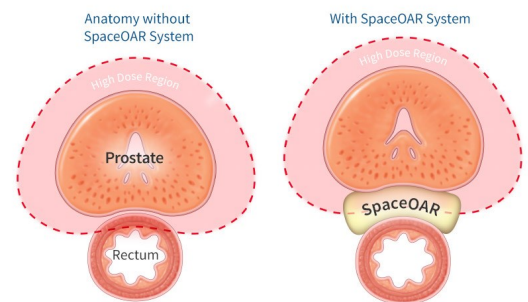
### Why would I want a spacer?

Spacers reduce radiation exposure to the rectum that occurs during radiation treatment, reducing damage to the rectum. They stabilize the organs, ensuring a higher level of accuracy for the radiation beam. This means that your treatment will have fewer side effects and be more precise with a perirectal spacer.

### SpaceOAR Hydrogel System

The SpaceOAR System is a one-time, biodegradable, hydrogel injection done prior to radiation treatment. The hydrogel is placed between the prostate and rectum, and stays in place through the duration of treatment. After 3 months, the gel is absorbed and leaves the body through the urine.

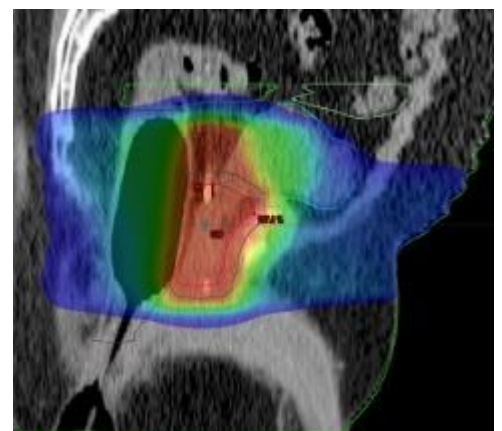
SpaceOAR provides 1cm of extra space between the prostate and the rectum, pushing the rectum out of the high dose radiation region. It reduces radiation exposure and internal movement in order to provide a higher level of accuracy for radiation treatments. SpaceOAR is not for post-surgical patients.



### RadiaDyne Inflatable Balloon System

RadiaDyne water-filled inflatable balloons are injected into the rectum prior to each radiation treatment. The balloons are prepped prior to the patient entering the room, so the actual procedure is very quick.

The balloon allows your therapist to accurately position the internal organs to match your treatment plan. It stabilizes the prostate to ensure highly accurate treatment, sparing the rectum from high-dose radiation.



## The Procedures:

### SpaceOAR

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SpaceOAR is a one-time, minimally invasive injection. Though there may be initial discomfort after the injection, there should be no major discomfort and once in place patients typically cannot feel it. No special preparation is required, and patients should be able to immediately resume normal activities.

This procedure is done under light anesthesia and lasts about 30 minutes, including prep.

### RadiaDyne Balloon

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The RadiaDyne is inserted prior to each radiation treatment. Each procedure lasts approximately 1 minute. The balloon tip is small, and discomfort should be minimal. You may feel slight pressure once the balloon is inflated. After each treatment the balloon is deflated and gently removed.

Numbing gel is available upon request and with physician approval.

## Is it covered by my insurance?

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SpaceOAR was approved for use by the FDA in April 2015. It is the first device specifically designed for use as a prostate-rectum hydrogel spacer for prostate cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy. As a novel technology, health insurance providers may require additional information to help them understand the procedure and related technology. SpaceOAR may not be covered by your insurance.

The RadiaDyne balloon is covered by most insurers.

**If you have questions regarding your options for perirectal spacing during prostate cancer treatment, do not hesitate to ask your physician.**



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