

It's About Choices

Today, more and more cancers are found at their earliest, most treatable stages. Not only does this improve chances for survival, it also means the availability of more treatment options.

If you have been diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer, you might be eligible for an advanced form of radiation therapy with the SAVI applicator, SAVI only delivers radiation to the tissue where the cancer is most likely to recur, meaning your treatment can be completed in as little as 5 days and with fewer side effects.

SAVI was developed so more women could choose breast conservation therapy without a major interruption in their work and family life. Talk to our Radiation Oncologists to see if you are a candidate for 5-day radiation therapy with SAVI.



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Less Toxicity.
More Patients.
Now That's SAVI.



Evolution of 5-Day Radiation Therapy

Mastectomy vs. Breast Conservation Therapy

Twenty years ago, the standard treatment for women diagnosed with breast cancer was a mastectomy (removal of the entire breast). Since then, thanks to technological advances in detection combined with new treatment approaches, most women have the option to save their breast by choosing a treatment called breast conservation therapy (BCT).

BCT involves the removal of the tumor (lumpectomy), followed by radiation therapy. After decades of research, physicians agree that BCT is as effective as mastectomy in decreasing the risk of local recurrence.

Whole Breast Radiation vs. Partial Breast Radiation

The current standard of care for radiation as part of breast conservation therapy is whole breast radiation, which uses an external beam to deliver radiation to the entire breast and requires 6-7 weeks of daily treatments. However, this extended treatment schedule can significantly disrupt a woman's life.

Accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) was developed to address these issues. SAVI is a form of APBI known as breast brachytherapy, which delivers radiation from inside the breast. This allows physicians to precisely deliver treatment to the tumor cavity and surrounding tissue.

This results in two significant advantages over whole breast radiation: It reduces treatment time from several weeks to just 5 days and spares healthy tissue from unnecessary radiation. Initial research indicates APBI can be as effective as whole breast radiation in terms of survival and controlling local recurrences in Stage 1 breast cancer.

How the SAVI Applicator Works

The SAVI® applicator combines the tissue-sparing dosimetry of interstitial brachytherapy with the single-entry ease of balloon brachytherapy. This strut-based approach is designed to maximize ease of use during placement while providing unparalleled dose customization.



1 Placement - SAVI is gently inserted in a closed position through a small incision, either at the time of surgery or in your physician's office.



2 Expansion - The catheters are then expanded to conform to the shape of your cavity. The ends of the catheters remain outside the breast during treatment for the delivery of radiation. The SAVI device will remain in your breast during the entire course of treatment.



3 Radiation Delivery - Once the device is inserted, you will go to your radiation oncologist to begin treatment, which is delivered twice a day for 5 days. The ends of the catheters are connected to a large machine, and a computerized system painlessly delivers a tiny radioactive seed into each catheter. The radiation source is completely removed after each treatment - no radiation remains in your body between treatments.



4 Removal - After your last radiation treatment, your physician will close the device and remove it through the same incision in which it was inserted and close the wound with Steri Strips.

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I expect during treatment?

Once SAVI is in place, you will visit your radiation oncologist where you will receive a CT scan to confirm that SAVI has conformed to the lumpectomy cavity. Using the CT images, your radiation oncologist and the medical physicist will develop your treatment plan. This typically happens within 48 hours of when SAVI was placed, with your first treatment beginning within the next few days. The device will remain in your breast during this time.

Treatment takes place twice a day over 5 days. Each treatment fraction will be 6 hours apart and lasts approximately 5-10 minutes. During treatment, a computer-controlled machine is connected to the ends of the catheters remaining outside of your breast. The machine painlessly places a tiny radioactive seed into each catheter. A dressing is applied between treatments to help prevent movement or infection.

Following your last treatment, your physician will close the bundle of catheters and gently remove it through the same incision in which it was inserted. Your physician will dress the incision and you are free to return to your daily activities.

What are the side effects of treatment with SAVI?

Following treatment, the most common side effects are redness, bruising and discomfort. These do not occur in all patients and are typical side effects associated with any type of radiation therapy.

For more questions and answers talk with your radiation oncologist.