
HYPERFRACTIONATED
THERMORADIO THERAPY (HTRT)
CAUSES LESS SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION
THAN EXTERNAL BEAM RADIATION
THERAPY (EBRT) IN DEFINITIVE
TREATMENT OF PROSTATE CANCER

HAIM I, BICHER, M.D., RALPH S. WOLFSTEIN, M.D. AND NAZAR AL-BUSSAM, M.D.

Treatment modalities for early stage prostate cancer (surgery, EBRT or brachytherapy) have a similar degree of effectiveness (over 90% 5-year survival), thus, preservation of sexual function becomes an important criteria for modality selection.

We have compared the results of published data ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ on the percentage of erectile dysfunction (ED) in patients treated successfully with EBRT with that of 5-year survivors in our institution following hyperfractionated thermoradiotherapy (HTRT). As previously described the HTRT technique consists of decreasing daily doses of EBRT combined with daily hyperthermia treatments delivered using a Labthermics Ultrasound Machine.

Published results report an incidence of erectile dysfunction between 30 to 60 per cent following EBRT. In our series of 22 patients treated, only 2 reported ED leading to impotence, amounting to 10% of 5-year survivors. In most cases patients and their spouses reported increased sexual activity.

CONCLUSION

Hyperfractionated radiotherapy seems to cause less complications of sexual dysfunction than external beam radiation therapy. We consider the institution of randomized trials to study this concept warranted.

¹ Siglin

² Sanda

³ Pinkawa

REFERENCES

1. Siglin et al- Int J. Radiation Onc.. Biol. Physics 76; 31-35 2010
2. Sanda et al- N. Engl J. Med 358 1250-1261 2008
3. Pinkawa et al EUR UROL 55 217-236 2009
4. Bicher et al-German Journal of Onc. 33:116-122 2006