

Advances in radiation treatment transform cancer care

SOT

Dr. Neha Sharma (NAY-ha // SHAR-mah)
radiation oncologist at OSF HealthCare

“The radiation delivery is very quick. Usually, it’s 30 seconds to a minute. It’s like getting an X-ray. You don’t feel or see anything. You lie on a table in a position that we plan out. The machine moves around you in set positions. It’s typically open and not claustrophobic. You feel the same way when you leave as when you come in.” (:21)

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“We’re able to prevent some of the side effects we saw in the past. One example is breast cancer. We’re able to avoid normal tissue and organs like the heart and lungs much more now with the equipment we use. We’re able to prevent side effects to the heart and lungs, or they are much less common.” (:23)

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“Discuss your situation with your radiation oncologist. Get all the information. Often, what you’ve heard or experienced prior isn’t really what’s happening with radiation treatment now. We’ve evolved quite a bit. We’re fortunate to have changes in technology and new data to guide how we’re treating people. It’s resulted in better outcomes, both in control of the cancer and short- and long-term side effects.” (:35)