

alliative care may be provided at any point during cancer care, from diagnosis to the end of life. When a person receives palliative care, they may continue to receive cancer treatment.

Palliative cancer care is not meant to cure, but to relieve pain and alleviate symptoms caused by the disease or by other cancer treatments. Palliative radiation is commonly used to reduce tumor size or provide relief from pain, bleeding, or obstructions. It can be used with other treatments meant to cure, but it can improve quality of life especially for patients whose cancers cannot be cured. In recent years, some studies have shown that including palliative care soon after an advanced cancer diagnosis can improve a person's quality of life and mood, and may even prolong survival.

1. To shrink tumors. In bone cancer, palliative

to internal organs, or when a tumor causes pain by pressing on nerves. It may be used as a form of urgent treatment in children with symptoms caused by large tumors in the chest.

2. To relieve bleeding.

Palliative radiation can relieve bleeding problems caused by tumors in many cancers, among them head and neck, esophageal, lung, stomach, bladder, kidney, colorectal, penile, cervical, uterine, and anal cancers.

3. To relieve pain.

Palliative radiation can reduce the pressure that tumors exert on bones. nerves, and internal organs.

4. To slow or relieve cancer's spread.

Palliative radiation can reduce symptoms when tumors have spread to the bones, brain, or internal organs, such as in lymphoma and in head and neck, breast, lung, kidney, prostate, skin, and other cancers.

5. To use when other treatments aren't possible.

In cancers such as those of the pancreatic and biliary system and others, palliative radiation can help relieve symptoms (such as pain) in people with advanced cancers or in people who aren't healthy enough for other treatments like surgery.

by the numbers

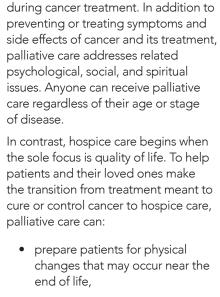
1895

German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovers X-rays

1974

First use of the term "palliative care," by Dr. Balfour Mount, surgical oncologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital and McGill University in Montreal

First ever global resolution issued by the World Health Assembly (governing body of the World Health Organization), calling for improved access to palliative care as a core component of health systems



Palliative

Different from

Hospice Care

Palliative care is often associated with

end of life, but it can begin at any point

Care is

- changes that may occur near the
- help patients cope with emotional issues that arise, and
- provide support for family members and caregivers.

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radiation can result in less extensive surgery, often preserving the arm or leg. Slowing tumor growth in stomach cancer can help treat eating problems. In esophageal cancer and lung cancer, it can ease symptoms in people who have trouble swallowing or breathing. Likewise, it can relieve blockages in bladder cancer and in colorectal cancer and can reduce swelling in uterine cancer. Palliative radiation can also ease symptoms caused by lymphoma that has spread