

Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRT)

Radiation therapy is a treatment for multiple tumor types that is non-surgical and non-invasive. In veterinary medicine, radiation therapy has seen dramatic increases in demand and sophistication in recent years.

Advances in radiation equipment and new technology allows us to tailor to the individual patient's tumor with more accuracy, so that normal tissue around the tumor can be spared.

SRT specifically, is a way to deliver high doses of radiation therapy to tumors with extreme precision, allowing for increased effectiveness and efficiency. This approach maximizes the impact on the tumor, while sparing the near-by healthy tissue. It can be delivered in 1-5 treatments, making it more convenient than conventional radiation therapy.

What types of tumors can be treated with SRT?

- Head and Neck Tumors
- Oral Melanomas & Oral Fibrosarcomas
- Nasal Tumors
- Brain Tumors
- Meningiomas
- Pituitary Tumors
- Thyroid Tumors
- Spinal Tumors
- Osteosarcomas
- Pelvic Canal Tumors
- Liver Tumors
- Pancreatic Tumors
- Lung Tumors
- Kidney Tumors

What are the side effects of SRT?

Most patients experience minimal side effects, but they can include a change in coat color and minor inflammation or irritation to the skin in the treatment area. In rare cases of oral or nasal tumors, more severe side effects can occur. Your oncologist will go through all the benefits and risks with you based on your pet's history, a thorough physical, and your therapy goals.

Can SRT be used in conjunction with surgery?

SRT cannot be given to a patient who no longer has a visible tumor. It can be given prior to surgery to increase the chances of surgical control.

What happens following SRT?

After treatment, a follow-up visit is recommended at 2 weeks for a physical exam, and at 3-months for a repeat CT scan to assess response to treatment. Depending on the tumor type, additional therapy such as chemotherapy or immunotherapy may be recommended.

