

Talk to someone who knows

Women all around the country who have received MammoSite 5-day Targeted Radiation Therapy have volunteered to talk to women about what to expect with MammoSite. You can connect with a MammoSite Volunteer via phone or Internet. This connection can help you understand the experience, and decide if MammoSite is right for you. You can also log onto the Voices of MammoSite® website to read or listen to women's stories about their experience with treatment.

Voices of MammoSite

HOLOGIC
The Women's Health Company

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Voices of Courage.
Voices of Hope.

Welcome to Voices of MammoSite

Contact a Volunteer

This website is devoted to the thousands of extraordinary women who have confronted the challenges of breast cancer and have fought it successfully with MammoSite 5-Day Targeted Radiation Therapy. Now, some of them are offering their time to support other women facing similar challenges. Watch the videos and hear their stories, browse their profiles and learn about their lives, contact them confidentially and find time to talk together. Here, no woman stands alone.

Choose a time

Read Their Testimonials

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To talk to a MammoSite Volunteer:
Call 1-877-566-9866 or visit
www.VoicesofMammoSite.com

HOLOGIC[™]
The Women's Health Company

*Moving breast cancer
treatment forward*

MammoSite[®] 
Targeted Radiation Therapy

The most widely utilized and accepted method of accelerated partial breast irradiation

Breast cancer isn't easy. Waiting for the diagnosis, going through procedures to let doctors understand your cancer and work out a treatment plan, then getting treatment—it all feels like your life is on hold.

But thankfully, more cancers today are being found at the very earliest stages due to more and better mammography screening and women performing breast self-exams. And, with advances that have been made in understanding breast cancer, more women are able to have these early cancers treated with little or no change in appearance, and minimal disruption of their lives.

When your cancer is found early, MammoSite® 5-day Targeted Radiation Therapy could be used following lumpectomy to help keep cancer from coming back. It only takes 5 days and it targets the radiation right to the area that the cancer is most likely to recur.¹ Since it's so targeted, there is minimal radiation delivered to other healthy tissue.

Your doctors will carefully evaluate your cancer to determine if you are a candidate for this advanced treatment. Even qualified candidates may not complete the 5-day treatment due to varying clinical conditions. In that event, you need to consult your physician about alternate treatments. You should talk to your doctor about all the risks and benefits of your treatment.

100%

100% of patients in the initial clinical trial said that they would recommend MammoSite Therapy to a friend or family member.²

100% of patients in the initial clinical trial said that they would use MammoSite Therapy again if they had to do it over.²

Do I need a mastectomy?

In the past 20 years, significant advances have been made in the detection and treatment of breast cancer, which makes 'breast conservation therapy'—lumpectomy rather than a mastectomy—possible. Forward-thinking surgeons began to study lumpectomy followed by radiation therapy as an option to mastectomy over five decades ago. Long-term studies have shown that for early-stage cancers, removing the cancerous tissue and a small rim of tissue surrounding it (lumpectomy), plus radiation therapy, has the same survival outcomes as total breast removal (mastectomy).^{2,3} Women who choose breast conserving therapy do just as well as women who opt for mastectomy.

Why do I need radiation therapy?

After the cancerous tissue is removed, radiation therapy is used to help keep the cancer from coming back. The intent is to kill any cancer cells that may remain so that they can't replicate.

Radiation therapy uses high-energy beams of radiation on the breast where the cancer occurred. This energy disrupts the growth of the cells. Cancer cells are especially vulnerable to radiation, because unlike normal, healthy cells, cancer cells can't repair themselves, which helps keep the cancer from coming back.

"I am soon to be a five-year survivor thanks to MammoSite! After receiving the call from my doctor, I turned to the Internet for information about the type of cancer I had and learned that I might be eligible for the MammoSite procedure. I was elated when my surgeon told me that I had options, including a procedure involving a lumpectomy and 5 days of radiation. My reaction? It's a no brainer! As a business owner, I was able to continue working at home and was able to return to the office after my 5-day MammoSite treatment."

**Maryanna Christenson,
San Antonio, TX**



What is Targeted Radiation Therapy?

Radiation damages all cells in its path—cancer cells and healthy cells. Because of this, many women and their doctors want to limit radiation treatment only to the area immediately around the cancer, since this is where cancer is most likely to recur.¹

This targeted therapy uses a high-dose of radiation directed right at the area surrounding the lumpectomy cavity to destroy any cancer cells that may remain. Targeted Radiation Therapy delivered from inside the body—also called ‘brachytherapy’—has been used to treat many cancers. Usage as a treatment for prostate cancer goes back as far as 1917, and has been the standard treatment for this cancer for several decades.

Targeted Radiation Therapy of the breast limits exposure of normal, healthy tissue to the radiation. This helps to minimize side effects such as skin discoloration and scarring (‘cosmesis’), burning, fatigue and damage to surrounding organs.

Because Targeted Radiation Therapy uses a higher dose of radiation limited to the site surrounding the cancer, therapy can be completed in a shorter period of time—typically 5 days. Conventional external-beam radiation therapy takes 6 to 7 weeks to complete.

Also, if you were to have cancer appear in another part of your breast in the future, Targeted Radiation Therapy may allow you to have radiation again—either MammoSite or conventional radiation.

“The fact that I would be done with the radiation in five days was key for me—fatigue-free and stress-free. This would allow me to start chemotherapy feeling healthy and strong . . . to get back to a normal life with my loving family and friends is what I wanted — that is why MammoSite was the right choice for me. I pray my daughter never has to go through what I did, but if she does, we will always be open to the newest technology to fight and beat this deadly disease.”



**Carmen Mattio,
Phoenix, AZ**



**Patrice Horstman,
Flagstaff, AZ**

“My life is really busy. To say you’re too busy for your cancer treatments is crazy, but still, I didn’t want all that time spent in radiation therapy. But I didn’t want a mastectomy either. I’m an attorney, and I’m used to doing research. So that’s what I did. I looked at all the options. MammoSite 5-day Therapy let me keep my breast, it only took 5 days, and it targeted the area right around the tumor. I said, ‘That’s what I want’.”

How does MammoSite 5-day Targeted Radiation Therapy work?

MammoSite 5-day Targeted Radiation Therapy uses a small, soft balloon attached to a thin catheter (tube). This balloon is placed inside the lumpectomy cavity. To deliver the required therapy, a tiny source of radiation, called a ‘seed,’ is placed within the MammoSite balloon by a computer-controlled machine.

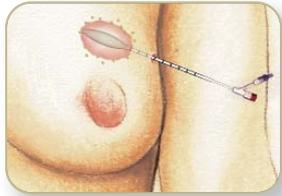
During 10 treatments over 5 days, this ‘seed’ is placed in the balloon and therapeutic radiation is delivered to the area surrounding the lumpectomy cavity. After each treatment, the ‘seed’ is removed, but the balloon catheter remains for the next treatment.

After 5 days of treatment, the balloon catheter is removed, and the area is closed with a small bandage. Most women say that they feel little or no discomfort either during the treatment or when the device is removed.

What about side effects?

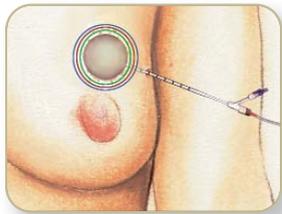
Clinical trials for MammoSite 5-day Targeted Radiation Therapy have shown it to be well tolerated, with mild side effects for a short period of time.⁴ Side effects that occurred most frequently include redness, bruising and breast pain. These did not occur in all patients. These are all common side effects of breast surgery and/or radiation therapy and usually go away after a short time. Occasionally, there is also drainage that occurs from the catheter insertion site, which is normal; this will also go away after a short time.

What to expect with MammoSite after your lumpectomy.



1 Placement:

- An uninflated MammoSite balloon catheter is gently placed inside the lumpectomy cavity through a small incision in your breast.
- The balloon is 'inflated' with saline solution so that it fits snugly into the cavity. It remains inflated during your 5-day treatment.
- A small portion of the catheter remains outside the breast; this is secured to a cushioned gauze pad to prevent movement of the catheter.



2 Treatment:

- Your treatment is planned by a radiation oncologist who will take images of the MammoSite balloon catheter in your breast and determine the amount of radiation needed.
- During therapy, you will visit the radiation oncologist twice a day for 5 days. Each treatment takes about 30 minutes.
- During treatment, the portion of the catheter that remains outside your breast is connected to a computer-controlled machine that inserts the radiation 'seed' to deliver the therapy. Once therapy is complete, the seed is removed, the catheter is unplugged, and you will be free to return to your normal daily activities.
- No radiation remains in your breast in between treatments.



3 Removal:

- After 5 days of treatment, your MammoSite balloon catheter will be removed, usually on the last day of treatment.
- The balloon is gently removed through the same incision made to place it. The incision is then closed with a small bandage.
- Most women feel little or no discomfort either during insertion or during removal.

**Gail Free
Greenwood, SC**



"Cancer is not a breeze, but going through (MammoSite) treatment was so easy. Before, when I had breast cancer in my other breast, I had standard radiation. It took a toll on my body, and it took a long time to get back to my normal self. When my surgeon said 'How would you like to have 5 days of treatment instead of 6 weeks of treatment?' I said, 'Yes!' I'm so impressed with how far they've come with treatment."

Additional Resources

American Cancer Society

1-800-ACS-2345 (24 hours)
www.cancer.org

American Society of Breast Surgeons

410-992-5470
www.breastsurgeons.org

Breastcancer.org

www.breastcancer.org

Breast Cancer Network of Strength

1-800-221-2141 (English)
1-800-986-9505 (Español)
www.networkofstrength.org

Susan G. Komen Foundation

1-877-GO-KOMEN (1-877-465-6636)
www.komen.org

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