

**Mayo Clinic Minute: Breaking through radiation therapy myths**

<b>VIDEO</b>	<b>AUDIO</b>
Jason	Radiation therapy can play a valuable role in a person's cancer treatment plan. But Dr. Jennifer Peterson, a radiation oncologist, wants to dispel a few myths.
<b>02:45</b> <b>Jennifer L. Peterson, M.D.</b> <b>Radiation Oncology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	"There are many misconceptions when a patient hears the word radiation. One of the most common is that radiation is going to make me sick."
<b>Jason</b>	She says side effects from radiation are dependent on what part of the body is being treated and how much radiation is used.
<b>03:00</b> <b>Dr. Peterson</b>	"And we work through those as we as we work the patient through treatment. But, in general, it's very well tolerated, and most patients can continue with their normal activities throughout the course of treatment."
<b>Jason</b>	Another misconception, the radiation is going to cause another cancer.
<b>04:55</b> <b>Dr. Peterson</b>	"The risk of developing a second cancer from radiation is exceedingly low. That's a long-term risk, something that could happen decades down the road, but the ability of the radiation to treat the current tumor or the current problem far exceeds that risk."
<b>Jason</b>	Bottom line ... modern methods of radiation therapy are precise. They target the beams directly at the cancer while protecting the rest of the body from high doses of radiation.
<b>Jason</b>	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.