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## *Information for You from Your Health Care Team*

### **How to Prepare for Balloon Catheter Placement**

- You may eat and drink as usual on the day of the balloon placement. You may take medicines before the procedure except Aspirin or Ibuprofen. You must stop taking Aspirin or Ibuprofen 4 days before the balloon placement. Aspirin and Ibuprofen can cause you to bleed during surgery.
- If you are taking a blood thinner such as Coumadin, let us know and we will check with your physician. You may need to stop taking the Coumadin before the procedure.

### **How is the Balloon Placed?**

- A Mammosite® balloon catheter is gently placed by your surgeon inside the lumpectomy hole through a small incision.
- The balloon is inflated with a sterile salt-water solution so it fits snugly in the hole. The balloon remains inflated during your 5-day treatment.
- A small part of the catheter remains outside the breast and is attached to a cushioned gauze pad. This prevents the catheter from moving.
- After the balloon catheter has been placed, you will go to the Radiology Department for a CAT scan of your breast to check if the balloon catheter is in the correct position.

### **What Happens During Treatment?**

- A radiation oncologist will plan your treatment, take pictures of the mammosite balloon catheter in your breast, and determine the amount of radiation needed.
- During therapy you will be seen by the radiation oncologist and have 2 treatments a day for 5 days, each treatment lasting 10 to 20 minutes.
- During treatment, the part of the catheter remaining outside your breast is connected to a computer-controlled machine. The machine inserts the radiation seed to deliver the therapy.
- Once your therapy is complete, the seed is removed, the catheter unplugged and you will be free to return to your normal daily activities

## How is the Balloon Removed?

- After 5 days of radiation treatment, your Mammosite® balloon catheter will be removed by your surgeon or the radiotherapist, 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 sutures and a small bandage.
- Most women feel little or no pain during insertion or during removal of the balloon.

## Are There any Side Effects?

- The side effects that happen most often include redness, bruising, and breast pain.
- These are also common side effects of breast surgery and radiation therapy.
- Sometimes drainage occurs from the catheter insertion site and this is normal. The drainage will go away after a short time.
- Most side effects are mild and for a short period of time. Not everyone has side effects

## Speak Up if You Have Any Questions or Concerns