



Microwave Ablation

Microwave ablation is a treatment that uses electromagnetic waves to create heat and directs the heat through a needle probe which is inserted into a collection of abnormal cells or tumor. The needle probe is inserted into the tumor using CT or Ultrasound guidance. Depending on the size of the tumor, microwave ablation can shrink or kill the tumor, extending your survival time and greatly improving their quality of life while living with cancer. This procedure can often be repeated if the cancer comes back (recurs), or if the tumor has an incomplete response with the initial treatment.



Expected Side Effect:

Most patients have few side effects following microwave ablation. Listed below are a few common complaints from patients.

- Treatment site pain for a few days following treatment. This usually does not require more than a few days of prescription pain medicine and many patients only use over the counter pain medication.
- Mild fatigue for a few days following treatment.
- Sore throat or mild “hang over” type feeling for a day or two from the general anesthesia. This may include mild nausea.

Going Home:

****A responsible adult must accompany you home after the procedure.****

****This is in place for your safety****

Diet:

There are no dietary restrictions specifically due to this procedure. If you had restrictions prior to other treatments or diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or renal disease, continue with these. Alcohol consumption is not recommended.

Activity:

Do not plan anything active or requiring your close attention for the first few days following discharge from the hospital. If you work, you may return as soon as you feel able. Most patients do not need more than 1-2 days away from work.

Site Care:

- Leave dressing on for 24 hours, then you may gently remove and shower.
- Replace with band-aid until puncture site is healed, usually in 24-48 hours.
- Do not put any medications or ointment on puncture site.
- Do not soak or submerge site until completely heals – about 5 days (no bathtubs, hot tubs, Jacuzzi, swimming)

Medications:

Usually, your pre-procedure medications do not change. We will notify you before discharge if any of your medications change.

1. If you should have any pain, take Tylenol or Ibuprofen (unless instructed otherwise) as needed.
2. Sennakot or Dulcolax (similar medications), prevent or treat constipation. Take twice a day, morning and night as needed.
3. If you have uncontrolled pain, nausea, or vomiting, please call the on-call interventional radiologist at 763-432-4310 during office hours 7am-5pm. After 5pm, please call 763-398-8710

Follow Up:

- Every doctor is different in when they want to see patients after treatment, but they will be glad to hear that your treatment was performed and you are doing well.
- We will schedule a follow up appointment with you along with imaging 4 weeks after the procedure.
- Follow up imaging is ordered either by Minneapolis Interventional Oncology or your oncologist, and is performed 4 weeks after treatment. If you have this scan done at an outside facility, please be sure to bring a copy of the CD images for your interventional oncologist to review. We will go over the results with you during the follow up appointment. If further treatments will be required, we will let you know at that time.

When to Get Medical and Emergency Help:

- You have questions about your treatment or new prescriptions

**If you have questions or concerns about your procedure or post procedure symptoms, please call us at 763-432-4310 during office hours (M-F 7am-5pm).
If after 5pm or weekend, please call 763-398-8710.**

Go to your nearest Emergency Room if:

- Your treatment site starts bleeding and will not stop after 10 minutes of firm pressure
- You have shaking chills or a temperature over 102°F
- Sudden shortness of breath
- Severe, worsening abdominal pain