

Wings Of Life

LEADING THE WAY IN
VENTURA COUNTY
SINCE 1979

RADIATION
ONCOLOGY



centers of
Ventura County

www.rocvc.com

Radiation Treatment for Skin Cancer

Skin Cancer



Our centers offer the latest treatments for skin cancer including External Beam Radiation Therapy – electrons beam radiation. This treatment is well suited for treating skin cancer in visible areas such as the face, ears and hands. Radiation is aimed at a specific target and does not damage the healthy tissue nearby.

"Dr. Montes put me at ease right away. There was no pain and I had no problems. The team is congenial and prompt, and they absolutely know what they are doing. I would recommend them to anyone who needs radiation therapy."

~ Vito Portanova

Types of Skin Cancer Basal cell carcinoma: This is the most common form of skin cancer, and it is very curable. These cancers begin in the outer layer of skin (epidermis). Radiation therapy is very effective for treating basal cell cancers that have not spread elsewhere. Other common treatments include surgery, chemotherapy and cryosurgery.

Squamous cell carcinoma: This is the second most common type of skin cancer. These cancers also begin in the epidermis. Radiation therapy can be used to treat squamous cell cancers that start on the skin and sometimes nearby lymph nodes with or without surgery. Other common treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, cryotherapy and photodynamic therapy.

Treating Skin Cancer Your dermatologist and radiation oncologist will work together to determine the best type of treatment for you.

External Beam Radiation Therapy External beam radiation therapy may be used to treat skin cancer itself or to relieve pain from cancer that has spread. Radiation oncologists deliver external beam radiation therapy to the cancer from a machine outside your body. Skin cancer is often treated with superficial forms of radiation. That means the radiation only penetrates only a short distance below the surface or applied on the skin.



Timothy A. O'Connor, M.D.



Henry Z. Montes, M.D.

Typical Side Effects

- Skin redness
- Sunburn like symptoms
- Itching
- Hair loss

What Are The Warning Signs Of Skin Cancer?

- A new growth or sore that does not heal
- Small, smooth, shiny, pale or waxy lump
- Lump that bleeds or develops a crust
- A skin-related symptom that lasts more than two weeks

1700 NORTH
ROSE AVENUE
SUITE 120
OXNARD
805-988-2657



5301 MISSION
OAKS BLVD.
SUITE A
CAMARILLO
805-484-1919



Our Doctors target the radiation beams at your tumor, giving more radiation to the skin cancer while keeping it away from underlying organs. Treatments are usually scheduled every day, Monday through Friday, for several weeks to accurately deliver radiation to the cancer. Treatments are painless and take less than half an hour each, start to finish. Your treatment schedule will depend on your cancer, but it usually requires daily treatments for one or more weeks. Radiation therapy is often given in addition to surgery, chemotherapy or biologic therapy.

Possible Side Effects

The side effects you might feel will depend on the part of your body being treated, the dose of radiation given and whether you also receive other treatments like chemotherapy. Before treatment begins, ask your doctor about possible side effects and how you can best manage them.

Nearly all patients will experience redness and moistness of the skin, similar to a brisk sunburn. After treatment ends, the skin will form a protective scab and the new, healthy skin will develop underneath it. This healing may take several months. You will also likely lose your hair in the area treated. Your hair may grow back, but it might not have the same texture or thickness. Talk to your doctor or nurse about any discomfort you feel. They may be able to provide drugs or other treatments to help.

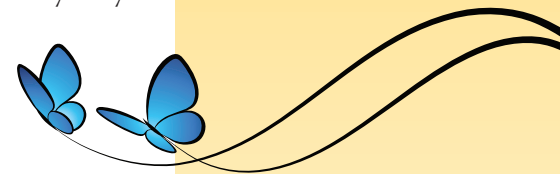
Caring for Yourself During Treatment

Get plenty of rest during treatment. Follow your doctor's orders. Ask if you are unsure about anything or if you have questions about your treatments and side effects. Tell your doctor about any medications or vitamins you are taking, to make sure they're safe to use during radiation therapy. Eat a balanced diet. Treat the skin exposed to radiation with special care. Battling cancer is tough. Don't be afraid to ask friends, family, support groups and your radiation oncology team for help.



Timothy A. O'Connor, M.D.

Dr. O'Connor has been listed as one of the "Best Doctors in America: Pacific Region." A specialist in linear accelerator-based radiosurgery, Dr. O'Connor is committed to advanced technological treatment and giving compassionate care.



Henry Z. Montes, M.D.

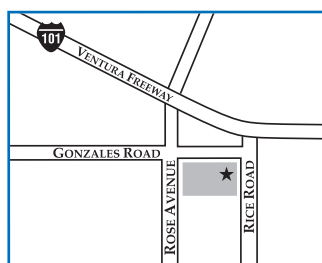
A Ventura County native, Dr. Montes is a graduate of Boston University School of Medicine. Fluent in Spanish, Dr. Montes provides high-level care to cancer patients and specializes in the most advanced treatments for prostate, breast and skin cancer.

Choosing A Radiation Oncologist

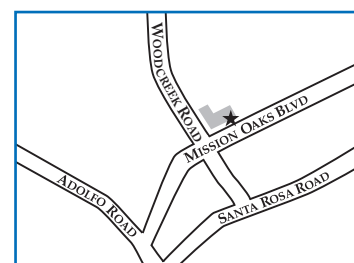
What sets our Centers apart is the personal attention our patients receive. Our team works together to care for every aspect of a patient's needs. Patient Care Coordinators and R.N.'s ensure patients and families receive care and support services available in Ventura County. Our affiliation with UCLA Medical Center and our advanced cancer treatments offer the best state-of-the-art care, right here in your community. Patients often comment that Dr. Montes and Dr. O'Connor spend time listening, answering their questions and helping them make informed decisions regarding their treatment.

Our UCLA trained physicians offer university quality cancer care, close to home!

For more information on cancer treatment in Ventura County, call one of our Centers today for a consultation.



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REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

8 AM - 5 PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY

24-HOUR ON-CALL EMERGENCY SERVICE

• Visit rocvc.com for more information on our doctors, services, cancer treatments and helpful resources.