

## Radio Frequency Ablation

**The key question to ask is**, “What proof is there that the treatment being offered will cure, extend actual survival, or increase the quality of life?” Ask to see scientific papers and reports on the treatment. If necessary, seek professional help in interpreting this information.

1. Why are you recommending **Radio Frequency Ablation**?
2. Why do you feel this treatment is the best option for me?
3. What is the success rate for this procedure?
4. What is the goal of this procedure?
5. What are the benefits and risks of **Radio Frequency Ablation**?
6. What is the risk of death or serious disability?
7. Do you feel the benefits outweigh the risks? Why?
8. What are the possible consequences of postponing the procedure?
9. What will happen if I don't have the procedure?
10. Will **Ablation** increase the risk of metastasis (cancer spreading to other areas)?
11. Will **Radio Frequency Ablation** be my only treatment?
12. What is the full name of the procedure I will have?
13. Are there any less extensive, less deforming, less painful procedures than the one you are suggesting? If yes, what are they?
14. What are the risks and benefits of the other possible treatments?
15. Where can I find out more about these alternatives?

### Undergoing Radio Frequency Ablation

16. How many of these or similar procedures have you personally performed?
17. Exactly what will you do — in simple terms?
18. How long will the procedure take?
19. Will I need to go to hospital to have this treatment? If yes, how many days will I have to spend in the hospital?
20. Will I feel pain or discomfort during the treatment?
21. Will I be given a local or a general anaesthetic?
22. What will this treatment do to my body?
23. What parts of my body will be targeted?
24. Will I have stitches or staples?
25. Can I go home afterwards?

### Following Radio Frequency Ablation

26. Will I have pain or discomfort after treatment?
27. How long will it last?
28. How can it be managed?
29. Will it make me prone to infections?
30. Will I have to have drains, catheters, intravenous lines, transfusions?
31. Will I be nauseous?
32. Will I be exhausted?
33. Will **Radio Frequency Ablation** affect my usual activities? If so, for how long?
34. How long will it take for scars to heal?
35. What kinds of feelings (such as sadness, anger, vulnerability, loss of control) am I likely to have after the procedure?
36. Where can I find help coping with my feelings if I need it?

37. Will I need to take time off work or adjust my work schedule?
38. Will I need help with daily activities following the procedure?
39. What are the possible side-effects?
40. When would they start?
41. How are they usually managed?
42. Are there any side-effects that I should report right away?
43. Who do I call?
44. When will I have the stitches or staples removed?
45. What symptoms – swelling, fever, nausea and so on – might be a sign of a problem?
46. Can the cancer spread after **Radio Frequency Ablation**?
47. Is there anything I can do to speed up the healing process?

### **Long Term**

48. Are there any possible long-term effects?
49. What are they and how are they usually managed?
50. What symptoms might be a sign of a problem?
56. Will I need physiotherapy?
51. How long will it take to heal overall?
52. Will the **Radio Frequency Ablation** affect my sex life?
53. Will I be able to work?
54. When will I know if the procedure was successful?
55. What are the chances of the cancer returning?
56. What follow-up tests do I need, and how often will I need them?
57. Where can I get more detailed information about this procedure?

### **(For women):**

58. Will this procedure affect my chances of getting pregnant and having a normal baby?

### **(For men):**

59. Will **Radio Frequency Ablation** affect my chances of fathering a child?
60. When will I know if the procedure is proving successful?
61. What follow-up tests do I need, and how often will I need them?
62. Where can I get more information about this procedure?

### **Family concerns**

63. How does a partner or spouse usually react?
64. What can we do to help each other?
65. How can I talk about the changes in my body with my partner?
66. How do I talk to my friends and family about cancer and my treatment?
67. How do family and friends usually react?
68. What support is available for my family members?
69. Where can I get more detailed information about family support?

**Any other questions you may have.**

### **Questions To Ask Your Anaesthesiologist**

1. What medication will I be given before the procedure?
2. Who will give me the medication and the anaesthesia?
3. How will they be given to me?
4. Will my allergies be a problem?
5. What type of anaesthetic will you give me?

6. What are the side effects?
7. What are the risks?
8. How long will the procedure take?
9. How long will it be before I wake up?
10. Will I go to a recovery room after the procedure?
11. Is a general anaesthetic necessary for this procedure?
12. Will any of the over-the-counter medicines I'm taking be a problem?

**You are the most important member of your healthcare team. Your situation is unique, and your treatment should be developed just for you. You can participate in your care by doing the following:**

**Be involved in decisions that affect you.**

**Learn** about your cancer and all available treatment options.

**Go** to all your doctor, clinic and hospital appointments.

**Ask** your team how to contact them between appointments if you have any questions that need answers quickly.

**Talk** to your team about your worries or concerns.



[Cancer Ireland](http://www.cancerireland.ie)