



PELVIC  
RADIATION  
DISEASE  
ASSOCIATION

## FACTS about late effects of pelvic radiotherapy

More than half of the 17,000 patients treated each year in the UK with pelvic radiation to cure their cancers are unable to enjoy their cure.

### WHY?

Radiotherapy is highly effective in the treatment of pelvic tumours, and there have been huge improvements in radiotherapy techniques and equipment over recent years. But because of the very nature of the treatment, radiotherapy can affect tissue and other organs in the pelvic region.

### Following pelvic radiotherapy, does your patient

- need to poo at night?
- need to rush to the loo, or not make it in time?
- have bleeding or
- have other GI symptoms that interfere with an active full life?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, then a referral to a gastroenterologist is essential.

Further information can be obtained through our telephone service

**01372 744338**

The Pelvic Radiation Disease Association helps people suffering from late effects of pelvic radiotherapy with the help of donations and grants. Please support us at

[www.prda.org.uk/donate-us](http://www.prda.org.uk/donate-us)

## PATIENTS AT RISK

Your patients could be at risk of debilitating late effects of radiotherapy if they have had radiotherapy for bladder, bowel, rectal, prostate, anal, womb (endometrial), vaginal and vulval cancers.

What other organs can be affected by pelvic radiotherapy?

Radiotherapy also causes changes in other pelvic organs and patients may have some of these problems too:

- **Bladder** - frequency, incontinence, urgency, burning while passing urine, and bleeding.
- **Sexuality and sex life** - both men and women can experience a loss of desire and some men are unable to maintain an erection.
- **Bones** - sometimes radiotherapy causes tiny cracks which often cause pain.
- **Lymphoedema** - swelling of the legs caused by a build up of lymph can also happen if the lymph nodes (little filters) have been irradiated (or removed in surgery).

## NEED TO KNOW MORE?

We have further information that may help your patients with onward referral and self-management of their symptoms.

Please visit

→ [www.prda.org.uk](http://www.prda.org.uk)

Or call

→ **01372 744338**