



**PELVIC  
RADIATION  
DISEASE  
ASSOCIATION**

# Are you having or have you ever had Pelvic Radiotherapy?

Leaflet for Patients

**Many of the 22,000 people treated each year with pelvic radiotherapy have debilitating side effects which reduce their quality of life, sometimes for many years or decades.**

Radiotherapy is highly effective in the treatment of pelvic tumours and there have been huge improvements in radiotherapy techniques and equipment in recent years. Unfortunately radiation damage to pelvic organs and tissues remains a significant problem, particularly for people treated many years ago.

**After your pelvic radiotherapy, have you had:**

- > **poor control of your bowels and/or bladder?**
- > **bleeding from bowel and/or bladder?**
- > **other gastrointestinal symptoms that interfere with your life?**
- > **effects on your sex life, menopause and/or fertility?**
- > **other symptoms, such as pain, swelling, numbness?**
- > **psychological concerns?**

**Help, advice and support is available from**

- > **[prda.org.uk](http://prda.org.uk)**
- > **[info@prda.org.uk](mailto:info@prda.org.uk)**
- > **01372 744338**
- > **Online Community [healthunlocked.com/PRDA](http://healthunlocked.com/PRDA)**

**We are on facebook and Twitter**

** [PRDAUK](https://www.facebook.com/PRDAUK)**

** [@PRDA\\_uk](https://twitter.com/PRDA_uk) [#PelvicRadiationDisease](https://twitter.com/PRDA_uk)**

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# What is Pelvic Radiation Disease (PRD)?

**PRD is a very debilitating disease that can occur after radiotherapy for pelvic tumours such as bladder, bowel, rectal, prostate, anal, cervical, endometrial, vaginal or vulval cancer.**

People with PRD often have serious problems with bladder and bowel control and may also have their sex life, fertility, mobility and mental health affected. They may also experience pain, swelling or bleeding. Many need frequent, urgent access to a toilet, and have chronic fatigue and sleep disturbance. They feel unable to take part in normal life, and the knock-on effect on personal relationships and finances can be devastating.

**The Pelvic Radiation Disease Association aims to help professionals and people affected by PRD so that they can reduce the burden of symptoms and improve quality of life.**

**Please consider becoming a Friend of PRDA and support our vital work.**

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