



Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy uses high-energy x-rays to destroy cancer cells, while doing as little harm as possible to normal cells. It can be used in different situations, depending on the type and stage of [lung cancer](#) you have.

You usually have a course of radiotherapy planned. Each treatment lasts for a few minutes. Your doctor or nurse will tell you how many treatments you will have. All radiotherapy treatments are currently carried out at the Edinburgh Cancer Centre, located at the Western General Hospital.

You may have radiotherapy over different times and in different ways. Some people have it once a day Monday to Friday, with a break at the weekend. This may be done over 4 to 7 weeks.

When someone has a cancer that can't be cured, we sometimes use radiotherapy to control symptoms of their cancer; radiotherapy may be given over a shorter time, often 5 days.