

Dear Emergency Room Physician

Low dose rate (LDR) brachytherapy prostate treatment

This patient has undergone Low Dose Rate (LDR) Prostate Brachytherapy, using Iodine-125 Seed Implant for prostate cancer. One of the complications of this procedure is **urinary obstruction**.

The patient has been told if they develop a urinary obstruction, to bring this letter to an Emergency or an Urgent Care centre and **have a Foley catheter inserted**. Following this the Brachytherapy office will arrange an appointment for further management.

If you catheterize this patient, there is a slight possibility of one or more I-125 seeds being dislodged from the prostate and discharged with the urine.

- The seeds are metal cylinders, each smaller than a grain of rice (see picture).
- If seeds are discharged, record the number of seeds and inform the Brachytherapy office.
- You can flush the seeds down the toilet.
- The radiation emitted from the seed(s) can only go a short distance.
- There is **no significant hazard unless a seed remains in contact with skin for an extended period of time**.
 - To avoid this, medical staff should use forceps to handle any seeds.
 - Avoid having staff who are pregnant handle any seeds.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Brachytherapy Office 8am–4:30pm, Mon – Fri. Outside these times please call the Radiation Oncologist on-call.

Sincerely,

Brachytherapy Office,

Edmonton 780-432-8475