

# FAQS (CONT.)

**What can I do to help make the setup more accurate?**

Your most important job during your radiation treatment is to try to stay as still as possible. Please let us know if at any time you are uncomfortable or you feel like you cannot stay still. Your treatment therapists can see and hear you at all times during your treatment and will watch for any signs of discomfort or motion.

**At the dentist they use lead shielding for imaging, why don't you use any shielding?**

Because of what we need to see in our images, we use stronger (higher energy) x-rays for imaging compared to your dentist. This means that a lead apron wouldn't be an effective shield.

**Can you tell if my tumor is changing from imaging?**

The images are not diagnostic quality, so rarely can your tumor be visualized on the image. The purpose of the images is to make sure you are in the correct position for treatment. A multidisciplinary team is evaluating your images throughout your treatment. You can talk with your doctor about their interpretation.

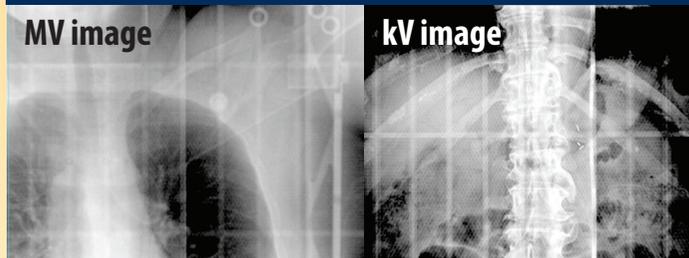
**What if I have more questions about my treatment imaging?**

Please let your treatment therapists know and they can help, or they can refer you to an additional member of your treatment team to give you more information. We always welcome your feedback.

Linear Accelerator



## RADIATION ONCOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM



### DEFINITIONS

**Imaging:** A generic term for any type of x-ray imaging, may also be called *picture*, *film* or *x-ray*.

**CBCT:** An acronym for cone beam computed tomography. This is a type of imaging that is similar to the CT scan that you received before the start of your treatment. The imager travels all the way around you to make this image, but doesn't touch you.

**kV image:** An image made with low energy x-rays designed to highlight certain anatomy.

**MV image:** An image made with high energy x-rays designed to highlight certain anatomy.

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About

# X-RAY IMAGING

For treating cancer  
with Radiotherapy

- ◆ **The type and frequency of imaging depends on the unique characteristics of your treatment plan.**
- ◆ **Imaging is used to analyze and confirm your position before we start your treatment.**
- ◆ **The imaging dose is 0.1 – 1% of your treatment dose.**
- ◆ **There may be a delay between when you are imaged and when your treatment begins while your treatment team reviews your imaging.**

## MY QUESTIONS/NOTES

### Why do I have imaging some days and not other days?

The frequency of imaging varies from one day per week to every day, depending on many factors such as your treatment site and setup. Your treatment therapists use a precise set of rules to determine when you need imaging on each treatment day. These rules were developed to maximize your setup accuracy with the fewest number of images.

### Why do some patients require more imaging than others?

Some treatment setups are more complex than others depending on the location and size of the region we are treating. The goal of your treatment therapists is to position you in the same position that you were in at your simulation. Sometimes this can be difficult because the body can move in so many different ways, and so it may take more than one try to get you in the proper position.

### What does it mean if my image “looks good” or “lines up well”?

This means that your treatment image shows that your body is in the correct spot for treatment. Treatment images are always checked for accuracy before beginning treatment delivery, so don't worry if you don't hear your therapist say this every day.

### Should I be worried about the extra radiation dose from images?

The radiation dose that you receive from imaging is very small compared to the dose from your treatment. While we strive to limit the extra dose from imaging, our first goal is always to make sure you are positioned correctly.

