What if I need help during treatment?
- The team can stop your treatment at any time if you need help.
- The team will not be in the room but they will watch you with cameras and talk to you over an intercom, if needed.

What happens after treatment?
- You will not be radioactive.
- You will be taken to the recovery area where you will stay until you are well enough to leave.
- You will be given your next appointment before you leave.
- Rest as much as possible when you get home, you may feel tired or drowsy for a few hours.

What if I have questions or concerns?
Call your Primary Team if you have question or concerns:
Doctor: ________________________________
Nurse: ________________________________
Chart Number: ____________________________
Phone Number: 905-387-9495, extension __________

Call 905-387-9495 and ask to speak with your Primary Team if you have any of these problems:
- not able to urinate
- heavy bleeding from your vagina
- chills or fever (temperature higher that 38°C (100°F) or higher
- very bad cramps or pain in your abdomen

If you have any of these problems when the JCC is closed, go to the Emergency Department.

High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy for cancer of the cervix

What is HDR Brachytherapy?
- Brachytherapy is a type of radiation treatment in which a radiation source is placed inside the body.
- Brachytherapy allows a high dose of radiation to be given in or very close to the tumour.
- With brachytherapy, the healthy area around the tumour is exposed to only a very small amount of radiation.

Where do I go for Brachytherapy?
- Treatment takes place in the Brachytherapy Suite at the Juravinski Cancer Centre (JCC).
- You may need one or more brachytherapy treatments. Your radiation oncologist (doctor) will decide on the number of treatments you need.
- On the first day of treatment, go the reception area on Level 0 of the JCC. You will be directed to the review waiting room for your appointment.
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What do I have to do on the day before treatment?

- The day before your treatment, you will get a phone call from a JCC secretary who will tell you when to come in for your appointment.
- Do not eat or drink after midnight the night before your treatment.
- Do not smoke or drink any alcohol for 24 hours before treatment.
- Arrange to have someone come with you and take you home. You will not be allowed to drive after the treatment.

What do I do on the day of treatment?

- Plan to be here for at least 2 to 3 hours. Your treatment should take about 1 hour.
- Take prescription medications if you need them as instructed by your Primary Team.
- Bring all of your prescription medications to the appointment in their original containers.
- Bring your health card.
- Leave all of your valuables at home.

What happens before treatment starts?

You will:

- meet your brachytherapy nurse and discuss your health history and have your blood pressure and temperature checked.
- need to undress completely and put on a hospital gown.
- have an intravenous (IV) line put in your arm for medications and fluids needed during your treatment.

What happens in the Brachytherapy Suite?

When you first arrive:

- You will see and meet many staff members who work together on your treatment.
- You will lie down in a comfortable position.
- Your legs will be in the same position as a gynecological exam, such as a PAP test.
- Your heart beat and blood pressure will be monitored during the procedure.
- You will be given medication in your IV to keep you relaxed.

When you treatment starts

- The area around your vagina will be cleaned and a tube (foley catheter) to drain your bladder will be put in.
- You will have an applicator put into your vagina and secured by the doctor and therapist.
- You will have an ultrasound and x-ray done to make sure the applicator is in the right place.
- For your first treatment, you will be taken to the Computed Tomography (CT) area for a scan. You will be taken there on a stretcher and will return when the scan is complete.
- A tube will be attached to connect the applicator to the radiation machine.
- The staff will leave the room before the radiation machine is turned on.
- When the treatment is finished, the radiation source goes back into the machine and the tube and applicators will be removed.
- You will be washed and helped to wear a pad and underwear.
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