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PROCESS FOR INTRACAVITARY VAGINAL CYLINDER PROCEDURE

The following contains general instructions regarding what to expect for your upcoming intracavitary vaginal cylinder treatments.

First Visit - Simulation and treatment [Approximate Duration: 1 hour]

This first visit will consist of a simulation and treatment.

The simulation will occur first. You do not need to do anything to prepare for this. You will be laying down on your back on a CT scanner table. With your knees bent your doctor will gently insert a vaginal cylinder into the vagina. Once the cylinder is inserted it will be stabilized to a base plate to ensure that it does not move. You will then slowly bring your knees down. At this point a therapist will assist in performing a CT scan of the pelvic area. This ensures that the cylinder is correctly positioned. Based on these images your doctor may need to adjust the position of the cylinder. If he does then the CT scan will be repeated. If no adjustments need to be made then you will proceed with treatment.

A therapist will move the CT table that you are lying on, to the treatment room which is attached to the room where the simulation was performed. A transfer tube will be connected to the end of the vaginal cylinder that is outside of the vagina. The other end of this transfer tube will be connected to the HDR machine that houses the radiation source that will be used to treat you. Before treatment begins, a physicist will enter the treatment room to verify that the applicator and transfer tube are appropriately positioned and connected. Once everything is confirmed to be correct the treatment will begin.

The doors of the treatment room will be closed for treatment; therefore, you will be by yourself in the treatment room. There is a camera in the room as well as speakers and so we can see and hear you at all times. The therapist and the doctor will be right outside the treatment room at all times during your treatment.

You will hear the motor in the HDR machine pushing the source cable into the applicator but you will not see or feel anything during your treatment. The actual time that it takes to deliver the treatment varies depending on the indication for treatment, but is typically between 5-10 minutes.

After the treatment is completed the doors of the treatment room will open, a physicist will confirm that the radiation source is back in the HDR machine, and a therapist will remove the applicator. Your treatment is complete at this time and you will be able to go home

You will feel normal after treatment and will be able to drive yourself home and return to your regular daily activities.

Subsequent visits [Approximate Duration: 30 minutes]

A simulation will not be performed at subsequent visits. Instead you will be brought directly to the treatment room. The same vaginal cylinder that was placed at your first treatment will be used for all subsequent treatments. The same process of placing the vaginal cylinder, stabilizing it with the base plate, confirming it's depth with a measurement, and subsequent treatment are virtually the same as the first session.