

Side Effects of Prostate Seed Implants

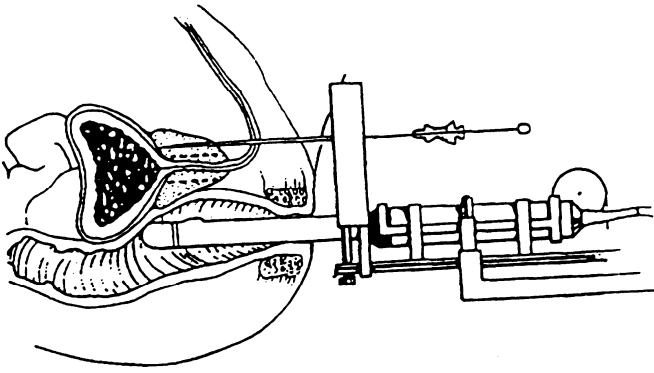
Immediate Side Effects (first 2- 3 days)

1. Swelling or bruising around the area of the scrotum where the needles were inserted is common and usually resolves in 24- 48 hours.
2. After the implant it is normal to experience some difficulty with urination (burning, pressure, bloody urine or blood clots.) It is common to have blood in the urine for several days. It is important to drink plenty of fluids to keep the urine dilute (6 to 8 glasses a day.)
3. Other common bladder side effects are urgency (the need to urinate suddenly) and frequency.
4. On rare occasions, complete blockage of the urine may occur (due to swelling) and the patient needs to see his physician or emergency room to have the bladder drained with a catheter. Most patients are sent home with medication (Flomax and Medrol Dose-Pak to try to prevent swelling or obstruction and it is important to take this medication as prescribed.)

Delayed Side Effects

After healing from the initial most of the side effects are due to the radiation given off by the seeds. Burning on urination, a sense of urgency, urinating more frequently, hesitancy or decreased flow, mild pain or pressure on urination are common and usually stop within six to twelve months, depending on the type of seed (side effects from iodine last longer than palladium.)

These side effects are caused by swelling and irritation of the prostate and urethra. Medication can be adjusted to help these symptoms. Drinking plenty of fluids and limiting caffeine-containing beverages or spicy foods may help. There may also be a short period of diarrhea or rectal irritation,



which usually responds well to Imodium. If you have any concerns prior to your scheduled follow up appointment, contact the doctor.

Long Term Effects:

Most patients do very well with seed implants. There is a small risk of chronic urinary problems (about 4% risk of frequency, pressure and burning,) rectal or bowel problems (about 1% risk of diarrhea, rectal bleeding, rectal ulceration,) there is also a risk of impotence (about 30% from an implant, 45% if the implant is combined with hormones or external beam irradiation) The risk of impotence is also related to age and other medical conditions.

For more information go to web sites: **www.aboutcancer.com** or **www.wellspringoncology.org** and if you have any concerns about the risks and benefits of this procedure be sure and discuss this with the physician

