

SAVI® BREAST BRACHYTHERAPY FACT SHEET

What is SAVI?

The SAVI applicator delivers a form of accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI), a shortened course of high-dose radiation for early-stage breast cancer patients following lumpectomy surgery. It is the only single-entry breast brachytherapy device that allows physicians to customize radiation based on patient-specific anatomy. It has been in clinical use since 2006.

How does SAVI work?

The SAVI applicator is implanted into the lumpectomy cavity at the time of surgery or in an office-based procedure after surgery. The applicator's unique multi-catheter design enables physicians to precisely target radiation where it is needed most while minimizing exposure to healthy tissue.

What are the advantages of SAVI?

The SAVI applicator's ability to customize radiation offers significant benefits, including:

- Minimizing exposure to healthy tissue without sacrificing overall treatment coverage.
- Extending the benefits of APBI to twice as many women than any other device.
- Producing better clinical outcomes, including reduced toxicity, less persistent seroma formation and lower risk of infection.

What is breast brachytherapy?

Breast brachytherapy is a form of APBI that delivers radiation from inside the breast, via a device placed through a surgical incision. The advantage is that radiation is delivered only to the tissue immediately surrounding the tumor cavity, reducing treatment time from 6-7 weeks to just 5 days and sparing more healthy tissue.

What are the advantages of APBI for women?

- **Greater convenience.** By reducing therapy from 6-7 weeks to just 5 days, APBI means far less disruption to patients' lives and families.
- **Less financial stress.** Women who receive APBI usually avoid the out-of-town expenses and prolonged absence from work sometimes required with standard radiation therapy. Many patients are able to work and maintain other normal activities.
- **Better outcomes.** With other forms of breast conservation therapy, women may experience damage to healthy tissue as a result of excessive radiation exposure to the skin, ribs, heart and lungs. SAVI reduces the risk of damage to healthy tissue and the chest wall.

Other notable facts

- Five-year results in most studies show that breast brachytherapy prevents cancer recurrence at the tumor site about as effectively as conventional whole breast irradiation (WBI). Longer-term studies are under way.

- SAVI may increase the number of women who can receive breast conservation therapy. Research has shown that the potential inconvenience and financial burden of WBI are among the reasons that only 60% of women eligible for BCT elect to receive it. SAVI removes these objections.
- Of patients with early-stage breast cancer who choose BCT, up to 30% decline to receive radiation. This places them at higher risk for cancer recurrence. Again, because SAVI removes many of the objections women have to completing a full course of radiation treatment, it may eventually increase the number of women receiving post-lumpectomy radiation.

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