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Using radiation therapy to treat desmoid tumors

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Desmoid tumors have an unpredictable natural history. Some desmoid tumors are indolent and may not require any treatment. Other desmoids are symptomatic and require aggressive management, which can include surgery, systemic therapy, and/or radiation therapy. Because desmoid tumors do not metastasize and usually are not life-threatening, considering whether and when to use radiation therapy to treat desmoid tumors requires careful consideration because of the potential for toxicity from radiation. In this presentation, I will describe the indications to treat desmoid tumors with radiation therapy, potential side effects of radiation therapy, and case presentations with radiation therapy techniques that can be used to maximize the chance for controlling desmoids while minimizing the risk for side effects.