

'Spotlight on' series

Radiosensitisers

Some oncological and non-oncological medications can be radiosensitisers which can lead to significantly increased radiotherapy toxicity. Follow these tips to help you identify these agents and manage them appropriately.

1 Keep up to date about potential radiosensitisers



These can include **systemic anticancer treatment and immunomodulators** used in the management of autoimmune disease.

Consider creating a **departmental reference list** of potential radiosensitisers.

Read the **ESMO-ESTRO consensus recommendations** regarding the safety of combining radiotherapy with targeted agents or immunotherapy.

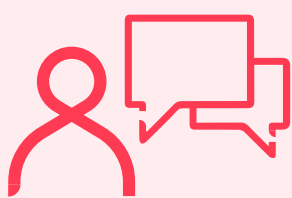
2 Identify potential radiosensitisers taken by your patients



Recognise **radiosensitising agents** and determine what conditions they are being used for.

Consider **searching the literature for evidence of radiosensitisation** for individual agents (eg case series, clinical trials databases).

3 Multidisciplinary patient-centred communication



Contact the **clinician responsible for the patients radiosensitising medication** to discuss whether the agent can be temporarily held and whether an alternative is required.

Share the risks of continuing and withdrawing the medication with the patient and come to a shared decision about medication changes.

4 Monitor closely



Ensure patients are **tolerating the absence of any withdrawn agents**. If not, liaise with the appropriate clinicians and consider alternative agents to manage symptoms.

If **potential radiosensitisers have been continued, monitor closely for signs of above average toxicity** and continuing holding the agent if this develops.

5 Reintroduce agents safely following radiotherapy



Liaise with the appropriate clinician to ensure the agent is safely reintroduced in a timely fashion.

References and useful links

[https://www.thegreenjournal.com/article/S0167-8140\(25\)00205-1/fulltext](https://www.thegreenjournal.com/article/S0167-8140(25)00205-1/fulltext)

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