



AUCKLAND
RADIATION
ONCOLOGY

Guide for Patients

Why choose to be referred to Auckland Radiation Oncology?

If you've been diagnosed with cancer you will want to be referred to a centre that can provide the best possible treatment and care in a welcoming, compassionate and comfortable environment. We'd like to help alleviate some of the fear you may have around cancer and radiation therapy. This brochure will explain more about our treatment techniques, our purpose built centre, and our personal approach to care that will help you get through this difficult time.

As the leading private radiation therapy centre in New Zealand, with exceptional facilities, we pride ourselves in providing patients from New Zealand and abroad, with world class radiation therapy for improved quality of life. Every year we care for more than 750 people requiring radiation therapy, at our treatment centre in Epsom, Auckland.

In caring for you at ARO, we aim to be the best performing radiation therapy centre in New Zealand. A combination of state-of-the-art technology and radiation oncology specialists who are renowned for their clinical excellence makes Auckland Radiation Oncology New Zealand's first choice for private radiation treatment and care.

Our team is focussed on innovation to ensure the safest and most effective treatment delivery and on providing leading-edge radiation therapy that put the patient at the centre of the entire treatment process.

Auckland Radiation Oncology has a commitment to investment in the latest treatment technology, to ensure that the treatment you receive is the most appropriate for you.

- Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT) – a technique that produces radiation in continuous sweeping arcs to deliver treatment quickly and accurately to reduce patient visits and improve recovery time
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) – a technique that allows use of a higher dose of radiation whilst reducing impact on normal tissue
- Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) – this allows us to see exactly where a tumour is, and how it's moving everyday just prior to treatment. IGRT makes it possible to use radiation therapy to treat tumours that weren't as readily treatable before
- Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRT/SABR/SBRT) – this is a non-invasive technique delivering a large dose of radiation in a single or few stereotactic radiation treatments to destroy a tumour. These new techniques in radiation therapy may be more broadly applicable to tumours in various organs
- Leading-edge treatment planning systems that enable us to sculpt the radiation dose to match the tumour and minimise dose to healthy tissues.



“What a wonderful, modern facility. I am so impressed overall with the staff members' genuine service and attitude to clients...”

– Palliative patient, Auckland

The team managing cancer care at Auckland Radiation Oncology

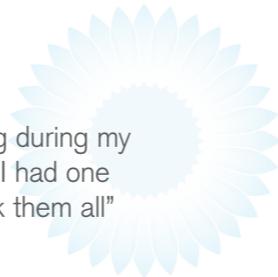
Your personal Radiation Oncologist will oversee your care throughout the treatment process to ensure that your treatment plan is delivered to the very highest standard.

You will benefit from world-leading diagnostic techniques, technologies and individualised treatment plans based on internationally established clinical guidelines. From your first appointment to your last, we promise that your consultant will personally oversee your care every step of the way and that the staff performing your radiation therapy will ensure that you're treated as an individual, addressing your personal needs and concerns as quickly as possible.

We have patient care specialists (Registered Nurses and Radiation Therapists) on site that can address any concerns you may have about treatment side-effects, and they are available throughout the treatment process. Dietetic support is also provided to those patients who require it.

"The ARO team have been quite outstanding during my 6½ weeks of treatment. From day one I felt I had one big extended family working with me, I thank them all"

– Gastrointestinal patient, Auckland



Facilities at ARO:



Free parking on-site



Free Wi-Fi



3 Linear Accelerator bunkers



4 consulting rooms with
ensuite examination rooms



Pharmacy, laboratory, café
and radiology on site



Radiation Oncologists consulting at Auckland Radiation Oncology

Consultant	Qualifications	Areas of specialty
Dr Chelleraj Benjamin (Benji)	ONZM; MB BS; DMRT; MD; FRANZCR	Breast, Head & Neck, Skin and Urological Malignancies; Palliative radiation oncology
Dr Susan Brooks	MB ChB; FRANZCR	Breast, Gastrointestinal, Gynaecological and Skin Malignancies; Palliative radiation oncology
Dr John Childs Whangarei satellite clinic	MNZM; MB ChB; FRANZCR; FRACP	Breast and Urological Gastrointestinal and Haematologic Malignancies; Palliative radiation oncology
Dr Christine Elder	MB ChB; FRANZCR	Breast, Gastrointestinal and Lung Malignancies; Palliative radiation oncology
Dr Anthony Falkov	MB BCh; FRANZCR	Central Nervous System (brain and spine), Gastrointestinal and Head & Neck Malignancies; Sarcoma; Palliative radiation oncology. Stereotactic Radiation Therapy
Dr Louis Lao	MB ChB; FRANZCR	Gastrointestinal and Lung Malignancies; Lymphoma and Oligometastases; Palliative radiation oncology. Stereotactic Radiation Therapy
Dr John Matthews	MB ChB; Dip Obst; FRANZCR; FACHPM	Urological and Skin Malignancies including melanoma; Palliative radiation oncology
Dr Maria Pearse	MB ChB; FRANZCR	Breast, Gastrointestinal, Lung, Melanoma and Urological Malignancies; Palliative radiation oncology
Dr Giuseppe "Peppe" Sasso	MB ChB; Spec (Onc Rad)	Breast and Genitourinary Malignancies; Palliative radiation oncology. Stereotactic Radiation Therapy

A supportive and caring environment

When you choose to come to Auckland Radiation Oncology, you will be treated in a calm, discreet and modern environment designed to support a personal approach to your care. Every member of our staff recognises each patient as an individual, with special needs and concerns, and does their utmost to make your treatment as problem free as possible. We respect and value your privacy throughout your treatment journey at ARO.

Having a friend or relative with you during your treatment can provide a great deal of comfort and support. We understand just how important this is, and welcome you to have someone with you wherever possible. We make every effort to care not only for you, but also your support people and family/whanau. From welcoming them into ARO, to providing them with the information they need, we will help them to play a full role in your treatment journey.

"I was most impressed that when physical problems arose, with radiation treatment, staffs' response was immediate and appropriate. I cannot speak highly enough of all staff."

– Anon, Auckland



How do I get referred?

If you would like to be treated at Auckland Radiation Oncology as a private patient, you can arrange to be referred here by your GP or other specialists involved in your care. All patients need a letter of referral from their GP, specialist or surgeon. Along with this referral we will require details of relevant tests, prior treatment and imaging reports.

Patients may also be referred to a specific consultant or send a request for a speciality-specific review. The ARO consultant profiles with their full detail and specialisations are listed in this brochure and on our website.

Once we've received your referral letter we'll get back to you within one business day to schedule a consultation appointment with one of our Radiation Oncologists. Our administration/bookings team will provide you with all the necessary details and forms.

At your first specialist appointment, your Radiation Oncologist will assess your situation and discuss the next steps for your treatment journey.

To make an enquiry, referral or to request a consultation appointment with a Radiation Oncologist, please contact us on:

- 09 623 6046 to speak with our bookings team
- Email info@aro.co.nz

Auckland Radiation Oncology business hours are from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). Consultation hours are specific to each specialist and will be discussed with you.

Where we are

-  AUCKLAND RADIATION ONCOLOGY
-  MERCY RADIOLOGY
-  MERCYASCOT PHARMACY
-  MERCYASCOT HOSPITAL RECEPTION
-  MERCY SPECIALIST CENTRE
-  CAFE
-  CAR PARK
(Use link bridge off upper level to access ARO)



Street Address: 98 Mountain Road, Epsom, Auckland
Website: www.aro.co.nz

Ph: 09 623 6046
Fax: 09 623 6586
Email: info@aro.co.nz



AUCKLAND
RADIATION
ONCOLOGY

A partnership
between MercyAscot
and Southern Cross
Hospitals



MercyAscot



Southern Cross
Hospitals