



Questions to Ask

Acoustic Neuroma Radiation

If you have opted for radiation treatment of your tumor, you may wish to ask some of the following questions of your radiation therapist, neurosurgeon, or neurotologist. Be sure that you are comfortable with the responses:

How long have you been performing radiation treatment of acoustic neuromas?

Have any problems emerged in any of your patients?

Have you been certified to do radiation for patients with acoustic neuromas?



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Will this be a one-dose procedure - radiosurgery, or will it consist of several smaller doses - radiotherapy?

What type of radiation treatment (e.g. Gamma Knife, LINAC, CyberKnife, Novalis FSR, proton beam, etc.) do you most commonly perform?

What are the advantages of this type of radiation over the others that are available?



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Why do you recommend this particular form of radiation treatment over others?

Do you expect hearing, balance or ringing in the ear to be potentially altered by radiation treatment?

Do you anticipate that the tumor will swell after treatment? For how long?



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If the tumor swells, do you expect there to be any problems?

If there are any problems, how would you treat them?

What are the long-term side effects of this treatment? Say 10 years or more?



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How will I know if something is changing?

Are physicists involved in the planning of your radiation treatment?

What symptoms are commonly experienced by your patients after treatment?



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How do you define "side effects"?

What are the more serious complications such as malignancy, hydrocephalus and others that can happen with treatment and what are the relative frequencies?

How many of your patients have experienced continued growth of their tumors following treatment?



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How many of your patients have you followed long-term to draw your conclusion?

If this happens to me, what would be my best follow-up procedure?

Can I have microsurgery, or can I repeat radiation treatment?



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After radiation treatment, may I go about my business as before treatment, or are there any special precautions I should take?

When and how often should I schedule follow-up MRIs after treatment?

Will I get these MRIs for the rest of my life?
