

Interview Questions for a Radiologist

- What is my diagnosis?
- What Stage is my cancer?
- What are my treatment options? What are the benefits of each option? What are the side effects?
- Should I undergo genetic testing?
- Will I need any additional testing?
- What is the test for?
- What will the results of the additional testing tell you?
- When will you get the results? How will I be informed?
- Why do I need radiation?
- What is the goal of radiation?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the chances it will work?
- How often is this performed for my type of cancer?
- How many times have you done this for my type of cancer?
- What is your success rate?
- What are the possible complications, risks, or side effects?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- Do I have cancer in my lymph nodes?
- What is the significance of cancer found in the lymph nodes?
- Are there any other alternatives to treat the cancer?
- Will I need other cancer treatments, like chemotherapy or surgery, before or after radiation?
- What will happen if I don't have radiation?
- What do I have to lose or gain if I don't have radiation?
- Am I healthy enough to have radiation?
- Are you certified by a Specialty Radiation Board?
- Exactly what will be happening during radiation?
- Will the radiation cure the cancer?
- How long will the radiation take?
- Can I drive?
- Will I have to stay in the hospital? If so, how long?
- What happens if the radiation doesn't work?
- What can I expect after radiation? Will there be a lot of pain? Will I have any drains or catheters coming out of my body?
- Will I have an exit site that also needs to be treated?
- Can I sleep on my back, side, or stomach?
- How soon can I shower after radiation?
- Do I have any restrictions and if so, what are they and for how long?
- How will my body be affected by the radiation? Will it look or work differently? Will any of the changes be permanent?
- Will I be taking medicines after radiation? How do you spell it? How will I take it?
- Are there any side effects?
- Will this medicine be okay to take with my other medications?

- How soon can I go back to work?
- Do I need to change my daily routine?
- How long before I can go back to my usual activities like the gym?
- What about sex?
- Do you do the radiation here or somewhere else? If somewhere else, are they CONTRACTED with my insurance.
- Do I have time to get a second opinion?
- How quickly must I decide about my treatment?
- Will a delay in treatment reduce my chance of being cured?
- What is the percentage of developing a secondary cancer due to the radiation treatment?
- If I choose surveillance (monitoring of the cancer), or the cancer comes back, how will I be treated?
- What number should I call in an emergency?
- What is the name of the person I should communicate with in your office? Do they have a direct number?

These last two questions are usually addressed with the person responsible for billing:

- Will my insurance pay for this treatment?
- How much will my portion be?

You should never leave the radiologist's appointment with unanswered questions, unless they are about tests or pathology results that have not yet been completed.