

# WALNUT CREEK SURGICAL ASSOCIATES

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## WHAT IS ACCELERATED PARTIAL BREAST RADIATION??

**You have just been diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer...** Today, more and more women with early-stage breast cancer are able to treat their cancer effectively and preserve their breasts through an option called **breast conservation therapy (BCT)**. This treatment includes the removal of the cancerous tumor, which is called a lumpectomy. The lumpectomy is generally followed by 5 - 7 weeks of whole breast external beam radiation therapy. This combination of surgery and radiation works well to prevent local recurrence of the tumor and the outcome is similar to mastectomy.

However, some patients find it hard to complete almost two months of radiation therapy. It might be difficult to take time from work or other responsibilities, or treatment centers may be far from home. **There is a 5-day option: The MammoSite Radiation Therapy System (RTS) is the most widely used method of partial breast irradiation that works by delivering radiation from inside the breast directly to the tissue where cancer is most likely to recur. Radiation therapy with MammoSite RTS can be completed in up to 5 days, allowing you to get back to your life.**

Over the past several decades, more women than ever are opting for breast conservation therapy rather than a more invasive mastectomy. Similarly, more women than ever are choosing a course of partial breast irradiation which may be completed in up to 5 days.

Since becoming widely available in early 2002, thousands of women have opted for the benefits of MammoSite Radiation Therapy System (RTS), the most widely used method of partial breast irradiation. Clinical studies of patients treated with breast brachytherapy have demonstrated low local recurrence rates. A recently published study from the Journal of the National Cancer Institute cited a local recurrence rate of 1.0% at five-year follow-up. This rate was similar to that seen in a group of patients treated with external beam radiation.<sup>4</sup>

Based on the clinical data that is available, physicians generally consider partial breast irradiation as a treatment option for appropriate early-stage breast cancer patients:

<sup>1</sup> Fisher, et al. *New Eng J Med*, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Veronesi, et al. *New Eng J Med*, 2002.

<sup>3</sup> King, et al. *Am J Surg*, 2000.

<sup>4</sup> Vicini, et al. *J Natl Cancer Inst.*, 2003.

**FOR INFORMATION: [WWW.WCSURGEONS.COM](http://www.wcsurgeons.com) AND <http://www.cetmc.com/breast.html>**