

# Initial Patient Perspectives on a Novel Intervention for Radiation Dermatitis: A Single Institutional Experience

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## Background

- Radiation dermatitis (RD) remains a challenging side effect of radiation therapy, especially for head and neck and breast cancer patients.
- While current strategies have provided some relief, they often fall short in effectively managing severe cases of RD.
- Silverlon silver plated dressings represent a recent advancement for both the prevention and treatment RD.

## Purpose

- The purpose of this study was to measure the effectiveness and patient experience of using Silverlon for the prevention of RD in a group of patients undergoing head and neck and breast radiation therapy.

## Methods

- Silverlon was used as prevention for RD on 11 patients undergoing head and neck and breast radiation therapy.
- A total of 7 patients had complete data and were included in the final results.
- Patients were surveyed on their experience after 1 week of use.

## Results

Treatment Area	Treatment Received	Fraction Silverlon Initiated	Silverlon Securement	Compliance to Prescribed Use	Easy to Use	Used with Emollients	CTCAE Grade
Breast	50 Gy in 25 fractions	15/25	Bra	Yes	Yes	No	1
Head and Neck	55 Gy in 22 fractions	20/22	Kerlix	Yes	Yes	No	1
Head and Neck	66 Gy in 33 fractions	17/33	Kerlix	Yes	No	No	1
Head and Neck	70 Gy in 35 fractions	31/35	Gator	Yes	No	No	1
Breast	60 Gy in 30 fractions	24/30	Bra	Yes	Yes	No	1
Head and Neck	70 Gy in 35 fractions	21/35	Kerlix	Yes	No	Yes	1
Head and Neck	60 Gy in 30 fractions	012/30	Kerlix	Yes	No	No	1

- A summary of results are provided in Table above.
- Patients were surveyed after 1 week of use about their experience with using Silverlon.
  - Four head and neck patients had difficulty complying with the protocol because the product would not stay in place; 2 stopped Silverlon use after 2 days.
  - 2 patients reported adverse: exacerbation of rash in a breast patient and an allergic reaction in a head and neck patient.
  - 1 patient reported a cooling effect on the treatment field while another reported that the product appeared to be aiding in wound healing.

## Summary and Recommendations for Future Research

- In this limited patient sample, the use of Silverlon appeared to have a positive impact on RD prevention and mitigation.
- However, it is clear that additional options for dressing securement that are easier for patients to use are needed.
- Ease-of-use was higher in breast cancer patients than head and neck patients, likely because the use of a bra provides a reasonable option for Silverlon dressing securement.
- These preliminary data highlight the need for a larger trial in breast cancer patients.

## References

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