

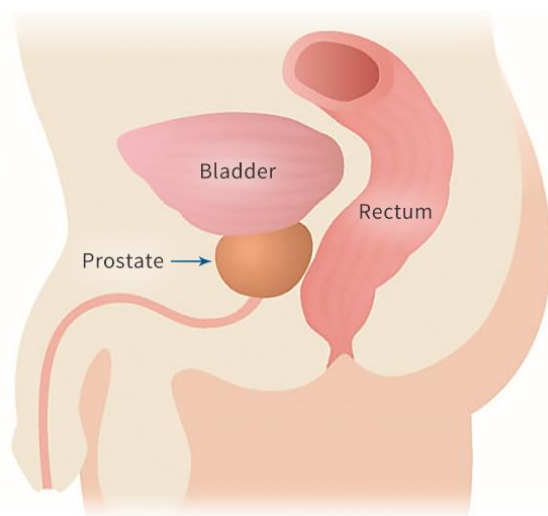
# SpaceOAR® Hydrogel

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The Kathleen Kilgour Centre is proud to be offering SpaceOAR hydrogel (Augmenix, Inc.) to men receiving radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer. SpaceOAR hydrogel is the first absorbable spacer designed to be injected into the space between the rectum and prostate gland, pushing the rectum away from the prostate. The placement of SpaceOAR results in a reduction in radiation dose delivered to the rectum during the course of radiation therapy. SpaceOAR is water soluble, non-toxic and non-immunogenic, which solidifies once injected and remains in place during the course of radiation treatment. Patients typically cannot feel it during treatment and after 3 months, the hydrogel is broken down, finally leaving the body in the patient's urine (1).

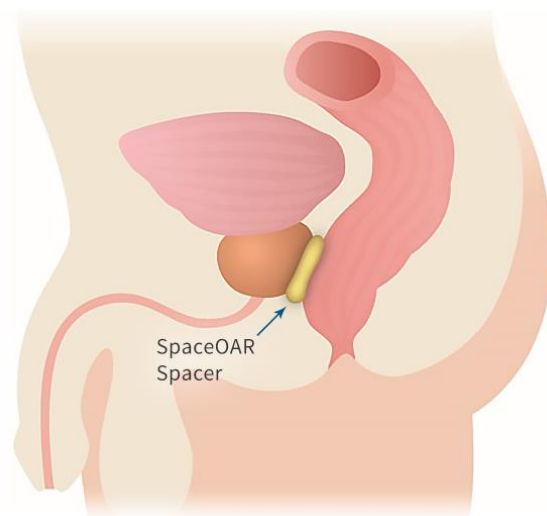
In New Zealand, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men. Every year approximately 3000 men are found to have prostate cancer and approximately 600 die from the disease (2). Radiation therapy is one common form of treatment available for men with prostate cancer. Radiation therapy in the treatment of prostate cancer can cause unintended damage to nearby healthy tissue. This damage can lead to a range of symptoms, including bowel/rectal, urinary problems, erection problems and fatigue.

SpaceOAR hydrogel is a proprietary absorbable hydrogel developed by Augmenix, Inc. The hydrogel is injected during a minimally invasive procedure in the small space between the rectum and prostate.



**Anatomy without SpaceOAR system**

The rectum is next to the prostate complicating prostate radiation therapy.



**Anatomy with SpaceOAR system**

The SpaceOAR pushes the rectum away from the prostate, decreasing injury to the rectum during prostate radiation therapy.

In January 2017, Augmenix announced the results from a study following over 200 men who were treated with external beam radiotherapy (EBRT) and either had the SpaceOAR hydrogel injected or not. The study followed the men for 3 years post radiotherapy treatment to examine if the side effects typically experienced by men receiving radiotherapy were reduced by the use of the SpaceOAR hydrogel. Results showed patients who had the hydrogel demonstrated a significant rectal, urinary, and sexual benefit (3, 4).

As a consequence of these results, the Kathleen Kilgour Centre has decided to offer SpaceOAR to men receiving external beam radiotherapy or high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy at the centre to ensure our patients receive the best quality of care and latest treatment techniques.

Further information about SpaceOAR can be found on the following links,

<http://www.spaceoar.com/what-is-spaceoar/>

<http://www.mdsanz.com/spaceoar/>

- (1) MD Solutions Australasia. *SpaceOAR*. Retrieved May 16 , 2017, from <http://www.mdsanz.com/spaceoar>
- (2) Ministry of Health. *Prostate cancer programme*. Retrieved May 16, 2017, from <http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/cancer-programme/prostate-cancer-programme>
- (3) Hamstra D., *et al.* (2016) Continued Benefit to Rectal Separation for Prostate RT: Final Results of a Phase III Trial. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 97(5) 976-985.
- (4) Hamstra D, *et al.* (2017) Evaluation of sexual function on a randomized trial of a prostate rectal spacer. *J Clin Oncol* 35 (6S) p. 69.