

# Prostate Radiation Treatment Bowel Preparation

## How to Reduce Gas in your Large Bowel

Gas in the large bowel comes from two sources: swallowed air and from fermentation by gut bacteria. Following these guidelines will help reduce gas in your large bowel during your CT simulation and radiation treatments.

Begin following these guidelines 5 to 7 days before your CT simulation (marking) appointment and continue to follow these guidelines until you have finished your radiation treatments.

**Decrease swallowed air:** Swallowed air makes up 90% of the gas in our digestive tract or gut. Some of this air leaves the stomach by burping or belching. The rest passes through our digestive tract and is released through the rectum (passing gas or flatulence).

### To swallow less air:

- Eat food slowly and try to relax while eating.
- Chew food well and with your mouth closed.
- Avoid gulping fluids. Drink fluids from a glass.
- Avoid drinking straws or drinking from bottles or cans.
- Drink lukewarm fluids instead of hot. Air is swallowed when hot drinks are sipped.
- Avoid carbonated drinks like pop, beer and carbonated water.

**Reduce gas made by gut bacteria** The rest of the gas in our digestive tract comes from bacteria in the large intestine. These naturally occurring bacteria feed on undigested carbohydrates and fiber from the foods we eat.

Try to identify and avoid foods that cause discomfort to your digestive system. Make sure you are having regular bowel movements so that gas does not remain trapped in your bowel.

Regular physical activity and eating at regular intervals can also help.

The following foods may increase gas and should be **limited** during the course of your radiation therapy:

<b>Vegetables</b>	broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, onions, garlic
<b>Fruits</b>	dried fruit (raisins, prunes), naval oranges, unripe bananas
<b>Legumes</b>	dried beans, lentils, split peas, chick peas, chili beans
<b>Sugar alcohols</b>	Sugar-free candies (xylitol, sorbitol, mannitol)

## Clear Bowels for CT Simulation and Each Radiation Treatment Appointment

Take two Senokot S™ tablets (with warm milk, if milk is tolerated) after your evening meal for 3 days prior to your simulation and first radiation treatment. Continue to take 2 tablets every night while on radiation treatment until you experience loose stools (2-3 bowel movements per day)

**Your treatment will be delayed if bowels are not empty**