Ideally, the accuracy of treatment should be verified by daily prostate localization, with any of the following: techniques of IGRT using CT, ultrasound, implanted fiducials, or electromagnetic targeting/tracking. Endorectal balloons may be used to improve prostate immobilization. **Biocompatible and biodegradable** perirectal spacer materials may be implanted between the prostate and rectum in patients undergoing external radiotherapy with organ-confined prostate cancer in order to displace the rectum from high radiation dose regions. A **randomized phase III trial demonstrated reduced rectal bleeding** in patients undergoing the procedure compared to controls. **Retrospective data also support its use in similar patients undergoing brachytherapy.**

Patients with obvious rectal invasion or visible T3 and posterior extension should not undergo perirectal spacer implantation.

**2019**

"Ideally, the accuracy of treatment should be verified by daily prostate localization, with any of the following: techniques of IGRT using CT, ultrasound, implanted fiducials, or electromagnetic targeting/tracking. Endorectal balloons may be used to improve prostate immobilization. **Perirectal spacer materials may be employed when the previously mentioned techniques are insufficient to improve oncologic cure rates and/or reduce side effects due to anatomic geometry or other patient related factors, such as medication usage and/or comorbid conditions.**

Patients with obvious rectal invasion or visible T3 and posterior extension should not undergo perirectal spacer implantation.***

### Highlights

- Removal of recommendation that spacers only be used if other techniques for prostate localization and immobilization are insufficient to improve oncologic cure rates and/or reduce side effects (ie, IGRT with CT, ultrasound, implanted fiducials, or electromagnetic targeting/tracking; endorectal balloons).
- Inclusion of Randomized Control Trial Data. 1,2,3
- Inclusion of statement regarding use in patients undergoing brachytherapy
- Specific call-out to biocompatible and biodegradable perirectal spacers

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*Please refer to the full pdf of the NCCN Guidelines for complete details, available online at NCCN.org.*


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