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Dear Editor,

In their March 29, 2007, article “Living With Cancer,” Claudia Wells and Alice Park discuss the various chemotherapy regimens that are helping cancer patients like Elizabeth Edwards and Tony Snow manage their diseases. Unfortunately, the article fails to mention the role of radiation therapy in the management of cancers deemed incurable.

Radiation oncologists today use newer, more sophisticated types of radiation therapy, including three dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT), intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), and image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) to cure more cancers than ever before, both as a stand alone treatment or together with surgery and/or chemotherapy. In patients with metastatic disease, such as Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Snow, radiation therapy plays an effective role in the palliation of cancer-mediated pain. The importance of radiation therapy in the management of such patients cannot be underestimated.

Sincerely,

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