ASTRO Patient Education Resources

The ASTRO patient education program was developed in 2004 to help increase awareness of radiation therapy as a safe and effective treatment option for patients with cancer and other diseases. Patient resources include RTAnswers.org, our website dedicated to providing information for patients; disease site-specific and general radiation therapy brochures; and videos. These resources are developed under the auspices of the ASTRO Communications Committee. See below for a listing of current and future patient offerings.

PiPE

ASTRO invites industry to support our patient education program through Partners in Patient Education (PiPE). PiPE will provide financial support for the development and distribution of ASTRO’s patient resources. To ensure absence of bias, PiPE may not contribute to or review content of materials prior to release nor may they request funding be directed to specific topics. Presently, ASTRO provides patient education resources for free or at cost to members. Patient education resources are always provided for free to patient advocacy groups and patients. Your support will help ASTRO continue to educate patients about the potentially life-saving benefits of radiation therapy.

Recognition

ASTRO will recognize PiPE on patient education materials and participating companies will be listed on the ASTRO.org website, as well as the RTAnswers.org website. ASTRO will promote PiPE on social media and at the ASTRO Annual Meeting. Examples may include recognition in ASTRO publications and on signage. Participating Companies may use the PiPE logo (please refer to logo usage policy) and are encouraged to distribute sample brochures to customers.

Analytics

Annually, ASTRO will provide statistics on the following:

RTAnswers: Number of users, pageviews

Brochures: Sales, downloads

Videos: Views
Current patient education offerings:

- **General radiation therapy brochures (3)**
  - Radiation Therapy for Cancer
  - The Radiation Therapy Team
  - Stereotactic Radiation Therapy

- **Disease-site specific brochures (14)**
  *All brochures are in the process of being updated, expanded and translated into Spanish.*
  - Radiation Therapy for Bladder Cancer
  - Radiation Therapy for Bone Metastases
  - Radiation Therapy for Brain Tumors
  - Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer
  - Radiation Therapy for Cancers of the Colon, Rectum and Anus
  - Radiation Therapy for Gynecologic Cancers
  - Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancers
  - Radiation Therapy for Lung Cancer
  - Radiation Therapy for Lymphomas
  - Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer
  - Radiation Therapy for Skin Cancer
  - Radiation Therapy for Upper GI Cancers

- **Radiation Therapy videos (9)**
  *All have Spanish voiceover.*
  - An Introduction to Radiation Therapy (2023)
  - Radiation Therapy for Brain Tumors (2016)
  - Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer (2014)
  - Radiation Therapy for Lower GI Cancers (2019)
  - Radiation Therapy for Upper GI Cancers (2019)
  - Radiation Therapy for Gynecologic Cancers (2016)
  - Radiation Therapy for Head and Neck Cancers (2016)
  - Radiation Therapy for Lung Cancer (2014)
  - Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer (updated 2019)

- **Patient website – RTAnswers.org**
  *Launched in 2005, continually updated and expanded. Site includes:*
  - Disease site-specific sections including brochures, side effects charts and videos
  - Questions to ask before, during and after treatment
  - Resources such as support groups and financial help
  - Sections on such as treatment types, alternative treatment options, safety and the treatment team
  - Patient stories
  - Find a Radiation Oncologist directory

Patient education initiatives planned for 2024:

- Patient focused podcasts for RTAnswers On Target Show, topics TBD
- Update, expand and translate 6 patient brochures
- Continue to Analyze RTAnswers.org for 508 (WCAG) compliance and make improvements
- Build Myths section of RTAnswers.org site
- Record additional Ask A Radiation Oncologist segments