

[*Daughter translation*] they didn't have the chemo right away, and . . . , lets see, from this was in May and she never had the chemo or anything until, . . . February, . . . February of . . . 94", . . . this last chemo she had, they, she was gaining weight and the doctor said I think she's like a 17 year old again. (Laughter) So you know I said no wonder I can't catch up with her. (Editor's Note: she was 74 years old) at the time of the interview



**Katherine
Big Hail [Crow]**

Radiation

Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy has been in use for over 100 years. High doses of radiation kill cells or keep them from growing and dividing. Since cancer cells grow at a faster rate than do normal cells, radiation therapy can be very effective. Normal cells are also destroyed by radiation which is why providers monitor the intensity carefully.

"Radiation Therapy" goes by different names:

- radiotherapy
- x-ray therapy
- cobalt therapy
- electron beam therapy
- irradiation

As with other types of treatment, the goal of radiation therapy is to provide the patient with the best chance of a cure with the least amount of toxicity and simultaneously provide the highest quality of life during treatment and after treatment. About half of all people who are diagnosed with cancer undergo radiation. For many patients, radiation is the only type of treatment needed, in others it is used in combination with chemotherapy and hormonal therapy. Radiation may also be used at different times during ones' treatment, such as after having a mastectomy.