

Diploma in Radiotherapeutic Technology

DRT



Diploma in Radiotherapeutic Technology[DRT]: What is it About?

Diploma in Radiotherapy Technology is a Diploma level Radiography course. Radiotherapy, also called radiation therapy, is the treatment of cancer and other diseases with ionizing radiation. Ionizing radiation deposits energy that injures or destroys cells in the area being treated (the target tissue) by damaging their genetic material, making it impossible for these cells to continue to grow. Radiotherapy may be used to treat localized solid tumours, such as cancer of the skin, tongue, larynx, brain, breast, or uterine cervix. It can also be used to treat leukaemia and lymphoma (cancers of the blood-forming cells and lymphatic system, respectively). The course provides many job options after its completion along with further studies.



Career Definition for a Radiation Therapist

A radiation therapist primarily works with patients being treated for cancer. She or he records a patient's medical information, locates tumors using x-rays and develops treatment plans within the guidelines set by a supervising radiologist and others on the cancer patient's oncologic team. Read on to learn more details about this profession.



A radiation therapist uses beams of radiated light to locate and treat cancerous tumors according to the plan prescribed by a radiologist and oncologist. They are also responsible for the safety of their patients, for observing and documenting any reactions to treatment, updating charts and answering any radiology related questions a patient might have. It is also the duty of a radiation therapist to maintain equipment and follow all safety regulations regarding radiation exposure.

Skills Required

Because radiation therapists work with cancer patients of all ages they must be empathetic to the suffering of others, yet maintain a professional demeanor. Those seeking a career in radiotherapy must also be able to move or lift patients who may be disabled by their illness. Due to the potentially hazardous material they work with, radiation therapists must be meticulous in following guidelines for safety procedures.



Career and Economic Outlook

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2016 projects opportunities in radiotherapy to grow faster than average until 2026, with 13% growth predicted. The aging population and the rising rates of some types of cancer unfortunately ensure a need for radiation therapists. The Bureau also reports the median annual income of a radiation therapist as \$80,570 in 2017.