

Scalp Cooling Program

Some patients may receive chemotherapy as part of their cancer treatment. Certain types of chemotherapy can cause your hair to fall out. This can be hard for many people. You have choices when it comes to managing hair loss.

The Mass General Cancer Center's Scalp Cooling Program is an option for patients who are starting chemotherapy and are concerned about losing their hair.

About the Scalp Cooling Program:

The goal of scalp cooling to help patients keep their hair or reduce how much hair they lose from chemotherapy.

- Patients are fitted with a silicone cooling cap, or cold cap. A cooling machine pumps cold fluid into the outer covering of the cap.
- Patients wear the cap for a set time before treatment, during treatment, and for a set time afterwards.
- Several studies have shown scalp cooling to be safe.
- We provide the Paxman® system to our patients at the Boston campus and at some community locations. There are also other scalp cooling methods patients may choose to use.
- Scalp cooling is available to patients who have solid tumor cancers such as breast, ovarian, lung, and other cancers. It is not approved for patients with blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma.

How does it work?

Scalp cooling works by lowering the temperature of hair follicles and decreasing blood flow to the scalp. This protects the hair follicles from the chemotherapy.

How do I learn more?

We will provide you with more information to help you make an informed decision about scalp cooling. It is important to weigh the benefits and risks and to talk about the pros and cons with your treatment team. Scalp cooling may not be the right choice for everyone. Results can vary and may depend on certain factors. Side effects can occur. There is a cost for the Scalp Cooling Program.

To learn more, ask your treatment team for a referral.