



American
Brain Tumor
Association®

Providing and pursuing answers™

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Hair Loss

Hair loss will probably be the first side-effect you experience. It occurs about two weeks after you begin radiation therapy. Hair loss is usually over the area being treated, but some people lose all of their hair. Hair loss is sudden, and it usually falls out in clumps over a short period of time. This can be very upsetting unless you are prepared for it. Hair loss is usually temporary; your radiation oncologist can advise you about this. Your hair will begin to grow back within weeks to months following therapy, but the new growth might not be the same texture or color as your original hair. Permanent hair loss over the area being treated can occur with higher doses of radiation.

There are various options available to those who are facing hair loss. Some people may feel more comfortable choosing a wig, others will choose a head covering, and some may even request that something be custom made for them. Whatever the option, the goal is to be comfortable and create a natural look. To help with expenses and obtain reimbursement, consider asking your physician to write out a prescription and a letter stating this is a hair or cranial prosthesis, not a wig so as to inform your insurance company that this is for a medical condition, not a cosmetic one. Also, be sure the receipts you receive indicate this is for prosthesis.

To minimize hair loss, cut your hair short before you begin treatment. This reduces the weight on the hair shaft. Satin pillowcases help lessen tangling while sleeping. Use an infant comb and brush set when your hair begins to grow back. Don't over shampoo your hair. Use a mild shampoo, such as a baby shampoo. Don't use harsh products on your hair, such as hot rollers, curling irons, hair sprays or dyes.

Enclosed are resources for wig banks, donation programs and free services. These resources contain a variety of items to choose from such as hair pieces, wigs and head coverings. Each listing includes contact information, services available and the population they serve (men, women and/or children). You may want to consider obtaining a wig before treatment or any hair loss occurs. It would be a good idea to bring a recent photo of yourself to help in matching the wig to your own hair color and style. You may even want to consider having a friend accompany you so you have some added support. The stores and companies listed have experience dealing with this sensitive issue and should allow you plenty of time to try out various colors and styles.

Wig Banks, Donation Programs and Free Services

A wig bank carries wigs that can be lent out to patients in need. Wigs are generally returned back to the organization cleaned and made available to another patient. A wig bank is a good source if you no longer need a wig and wish to donate it, or if you are in need of a wig. If you choose to acquire a wig, you may want to bring a photograph of yourself with your previous hair style or color to best match your natural look. Hair donation programs have strict donation guidelines so you should contact the organization before donating hair to be sure it is processed properly (these programs also offer free brochures explaining this process). Free services often are restricted to those within certain income guidelines and/or with demonstrated medical need. Contact the programs directly for information about eligibility requirements.

Wig Bank/Donation Programs/Free Services	Contact Information	Services Available
American Cancer Society	800-227-1596 www.cancer.org	Accepts and provides no cost/reduced cost wigs to those facing hair loss due to cancer. Contact the toll-free number to find out where to donate and to obtain wigs locally. Not available in all locations.
Breast Cancer Network of Strength	135 South LaSalle Suite 2000 Chicago, IL 60603 312-986-8338 800-221-2141 www.networkofstrength.org	Accepts and provides donated wigs at no cost to women in financial need. Call for information.
Children with Hairloss	12776 Dixie Hwy South Rockwood, MI 48179 734-379-4400 www.childrenwithhairloss.us	Offers hair replacement services at no charge for children (under age 21) with any form of medically related hair loss. Provides hair replacement, a care kit, a band of hair, turban, hat and free styling services.
Comfortably Yours	23404 Greater Mack St St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 586-776-7429	Products available for women including new and used wigs. Some at no cost to those who can't afford them. They also carry hair accessories and head coverings.

Hair Club for Kids	800-269-7384 www.hairclub.com/hc_for_kids.php 88 locations across US.	Offers custom made hair pieces at no cost for children 6-17 with medical need.
Hair Response, Inc	701 W. Deerfield Parkway Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 847-541-9799 www.hairresponse.com www.wendylarks.org	The Wendy Larks Foundation works with Hair Response, Inc to allow cancer patients with no insurance or whose insurance does not cover wigs to obtain a wig
Hats by Emmanuel	6756 – 31A Ave Edmonton, Alberta Canada T6K 1M5 780-468-9270 www.hatsbyemmanuel.com	Offers hats and hats with hair, turbans, scarves, head wraps and sleep caps. Products can be ordered by mail order or online. "Fashion with Compassion Fund" offers free hats to children with cancer in Alberta, Ontario and Ottawa, Canada with plans to include other areas of Canada.
Headhuggers	1006 Aukland Way Chester, MD 21619 410-643-5767 www.headhuggers.org	Offers at no charge knitted and crocheted hats for individuals who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy or brain surgery. Affiliated groups throughout the country listed at web site. Contact Headhuggers or an affiliated group in your state to donate your time to make hats or to request a hat. Guidelines for making a hat are available at the web site.
Heavenly Hats Foundation	Anthony D. Leanna 2325 Pamperin Rd Ste 3 Green Bay, WI 54313 920-264-7960 www.heavenlyhats.com	Offers new hats, all styles, all sizes to men, women and children in need of hats due to medically caused hair loss. No charge for hats. Serves hospitals, clinics and individuals throughout the country.
Locks of Love	234 Southern Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33405 561-833-7332 www.locksoflove.org	Offers custom fitted hair prostheses at no charge for children under the age of 18 in financial need with medically caused, permanent hair loss. Uses donated hair.

<p>Look Good...Feel Better Program for Women</p>	<p>For a program in your area call 800-395-5665 (LOOK) www.lookgoodfeelbetter.org Locations nationwide and internationally.</p>	<p>Offers tips and resources to help women look and feel their best following cancer treatment. Programs throughout the country on make-up, skin and hair care, wigs and techniques on scarf or turban tying. Information also available at web site, including how to find a program in your area.</p>
<p>Look Good...Feel Better Program for Men</p>	<p>For a program in your area call 800-395-5665 (LOOK) www.lookgoodfeelbetterformen.org</p>	<p>Offers tips and resources to help men look their best following cancer treatment. Information available at the web site only. Provides day-to-day tips on hair and skin care, exercise and ways to relax.</p>
<p>Look Good...Feel Better for Teens</p>	<p>For a program in your area 800-395-5665 (LOOK) www.2bme.org</p>	<p>The teen program for teens, male and female, ages 13-17. Interactive informational sessions on face and skin care, headwear, self-esteem, nutrition, fitness, fashion and relationships. Information at web site only.</p>
<p>Shop Well With You</p>	<p>PO Box 1270 New York, NY 10009 800-799-6790 212-226-0466 www.shopwellwithyou.org</p>	<p>Offers free services to help women who have been or are currently being treated for cancer to information and resources. At web site click "Clothing and Accessory Directory" then choose "Head Coverings."</p>
<p>The WHO Foundation</p>	<p>PO Box 816029 Dallas, TX 75381-6029 800-946-4663 972-458-0601 www.whofoundation.org</p>	<p>The Women Helping Others booklet is offered at no charge to cancer patients. These booklets are complete guides to looking good and feeling better, offering practical tips for makeup and choosing hair accessories.</p>
<p>WISE Women's International Support Environment</p>	<p>WISE Center 620 Cranbury Rd Ste 211 East Brunswick, NJ 08816 800-870-6616 732-257-6611 www.thewisecenter.com</p>	<p>New and used wigs are available for men, women, and children. WISE has a cleaning service for wigs. Call for a consultation on styling assistance and to receive a brochure of the products available. If eligible, patients may use the wig services at low or no cost. Call WISE for details.</p>

Wigs for Kids	24231 Center Ridge Road Westlake, OH 44145 440-333-4433 www.wigsforkids.org	This program is free to children who have a medical need for hair prosthesis and have exhausted other payment sources. For information on donation guidelines, eligibility requirements for children, and for salon locations across the country, call or go to their web site.
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This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice and does not provide advice on treatments or conditions for individual patients. All health and treatment decisions must be made in consultation with your physician (s), utilizing your specific medical information. The American Brain Tumor Association does not endorse any of the organizations listed or guarantee that individuals will qualify for the services they provide. Please contact each organization for their specific guidelines.

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