

The banner features a light blue background with a large, semi-transparent light blue circle on the left side. A series of vertical white lines of varying heights are positioned at the bottom left. On the right side, there is a small white circle and a yellow rectangular shape. The text "Brachytherapy Awareness Day" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the date "17 July 2025" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A small white corner bracket is located in the top right corner.

Brachytherapy Awareness Day

17 July 2025

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Brachytherapy Awareness Day – 17 July 2025

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Brachytherapy Awareness Day 2025: Honouring the Power of Precision in Cancer Care

Brussels, 17 July 2025 – Today marks Brachytherapy Awareness Day, a global initiative to spotlight a cancer treatment that is saving lives with precision: **brachytherapy**. This advanced form of internal radiation delivers high doses directly to tumours, minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissue and reducing side effects.

“Until a month ago, I had never heard of brachytherapy. Now, I’m grateful for the hope and the results it brings to patients.”

— *Patient group representative*

On this day, the GEC-ESTRO community and its global partners aim to:

- Educate patients and healthcare professionals about this highly targeted treatment option.
- Support continued research and innovation in precision radiation therapy.
- Empower patients to explore all evidence-based treatment pathways.

What Is Brachytherapy?

Also known as internal radiotherapy, brachytherapy involves placing a radiation source inside or next to the tumour. This allows radiation to be delivered with millimetre-level precision, significantly sparing healthy organs. Often used alone or in combination with other treatments, brachytherapy is valued for:

- Its ability to **shorten treatment time**.
- **Organ preservation**, both in function and appearance.
- Proven effectiveness across **multiple cancer types**: It plays a key role in treating cancers of the **prostate, cervix, breast, skin, and head and neck**.

How Brachytherapy Improves Cancer Outcomes

● **Cervical Cancer: Excellent local tumour control and overall survival**

The addition of brachytherapy is recommended for all patients receiving combined external radiotherapy and chemotherapy, according to international clinical guidelines (1, 2). Results from the EMBRACE-II study, presented in May (3), showed that for 93% of these patients, the tumour in cervix was cured, and 87% were still alive three years after treatment.

● **Prostate Cancer: Enhanced Long-Term Control**

Recent studies show that adding a brachytherapy boost to external beam radiation therapy improves local control up to 98% (4).

Furthermore, this combination significantly reduced the risk of dying from prostate cancer, cutting it by half (5).

● **Breast Cancer: Breast Cancer: A Safe and Breast-Preserving Option**

- **Early-stage breast cancer:**

Brachytherapy is increasingly used to safely deliver a complete course of treatment in just 2–5 days — compared to several weeks with external beam radiation — with fewer side effects and excellent tumour control (6, 7).

- **Recurrence after prior radiotherapy:**

For women experiencing a recurrence, brachytherapy allows a second, localised course of treatment, preserving the breast without compromising survival:

- 5-year survival rates were similar for mastectomy (88%) and brachytherapy-based breast conservation (87%)
- 97% of women treated with brachytherapy were able to preserve their breast a second time (8).

● **Skin & Head and Neck Cancers: Preserving Form and Function**

In delicate areas such as the lips, eyelids, nasal vestibule, or eyes (uveal melanomas), brachytherapy offers tumour control while preserving appearance and function — reducing the need for extensive surgery and offering excellent aesthetic outcomes (9, 10, 11).

“It is my wish that every cancer patient knows about brachytherapy and discusses with their doctor whether it could be an option. Ideally, brachytherapy enables a tumour-free life with no or only acceptable side effects.”

— *Prof Frank-André Siebert, Chair of GEC-ESTRO*

A Global Call for Precision, Personalised Cancer Care

Brachytherapy Awareness Day is supported by leading organisations worldwide: the American Brachytherapy Society (ABS), the Canadian Brachytherapy Group

(CBG), the Australian Brachytherapy Group (ABG), the Indian Brachytherapy Society and GEC-ESTRO. Together, we call for:

- Broader **access** to high-quality, evidence-based brachytherapy
- Continued **innovation** to refine and expand this life-saving technique
- Greater **awareness** among patients, clinicians, and policymakers

Help Spread the Word

Too many patients are unaware that precision options like brachytherapy exist to treat cancer. Help us raise awareness — share trusted information, speak to your healthcare providers, and join the global movement.

About GEC-ESTRO

The *Groupe Européen de Curiethérapie* ([GEC-ESTRO](#)) is a specialist group within the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO). It brings together leading brachytherapy experts to advance research, education, and best clinical practice.

[ESTRO](#) is a leading organisation promoting education, science, and access to radiotherapy for better cancer care. With nearly 10,000 members worldwide, it supports professionals in radiation oncology and beyond.

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