



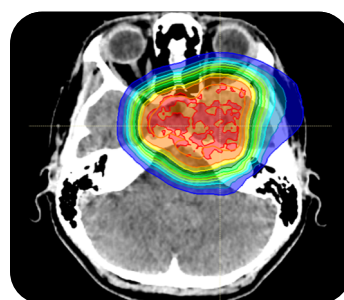
**AUSTRALIAN
BRAGG CENTRE**
FOR PROTON THERAPY
AND RESEARCH

Comparative Planning FAQ

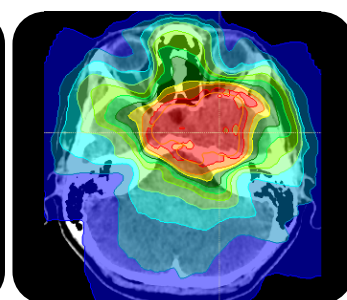
What Is Proton Therapy?

Proton therapy is a type of cancer treatment that uses tiny particles called protons to target and destroy cancer cells. It's different from standard radiation therapy (called photon or x-ray therapy), because it can deliver the radiation precisely to the cancer, with less damage to healthy parts of the body. This means fewer side effects. It's especially helpful for children whose bodies are still developing and for cancers near important parts of the body like the brain, spine, or eyes.

Proton therapy is normally delivered daily over a number of weeks (the same as standard photon or x-ray radiation therapy). You will not see or feel anything during your treatment.



Proton



X-ray

Do We Have Proton Therapy In Australia?

Proton therapy is **not yet available in Australia**. For now, people who need proton therapy must go to other countries to get it.

How Do I Access Proton Therapy Overseas?

You may be able to get help through a government program called the Medical Treatment Overseas Program (MTO). Further information and eligibility criteria can be found at: www.health.gov.au/our-work/medical-treatment-overseas-program.

This program can help pay for:

- The proton therapy treatment
- Flights and travel insurance
- A place to stay while overseas
- Travel for a carer/support person (if medically required)

To apply, your cancer doctor (oncologist) must fill out a form and explain why proton therapy might be appropriate for you.

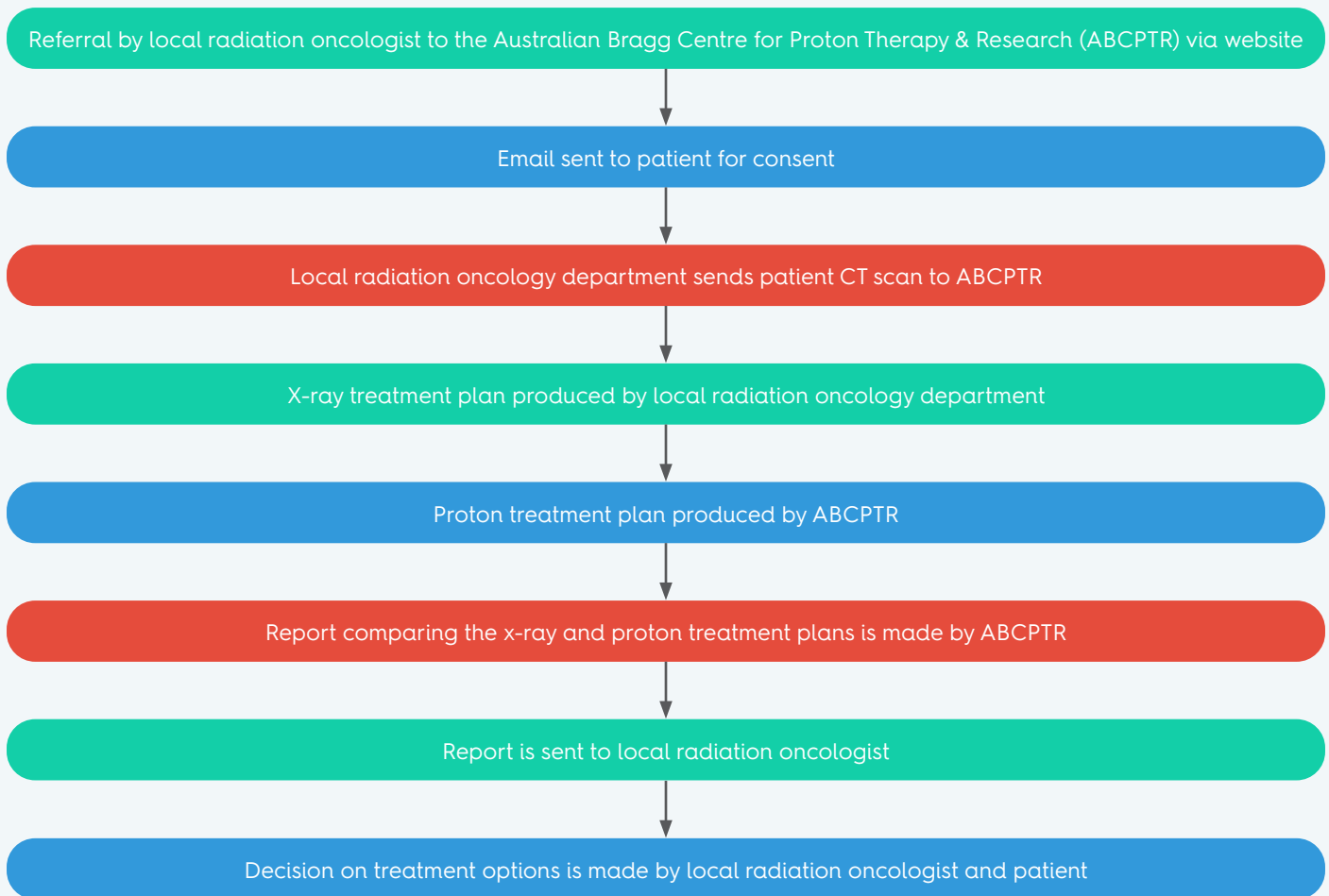
As part of this application, a comparative photon-to-proton treatment plan report looks at the differences between photon or x-ray radiation treatment and proton therapy treatment.

How Do I Get A Comparative Plan?

Your radiation oncologist starts this process by filling out a referral form online. This must be completed by a radiation oncologist.

www.protontherapy.sahmri.org.au/referring-clinicians

Below shows a step-by-step process:



What Do I Have To Do?

Most of the work will be done by your local radiation oncologist and the ABCPTR comparative planning team.

You will receive an email or letter via the post asking for your financial consent (this service is bulk billed, there is **no out-of-pocket cost**).

Once the comparative report is completed it will be sent to your radiation oncologist who will then discuss your options with you.

Contact

If further information is required, please contact ABCPTR via:
Proton.Planning@sahmri.com