



Information for
patients and
carers

Superficial and electron radiotherapy treatment

You should have also received the following leaflets:

- Radiotherapy- a general guide for patients and carers
- Planning your superficial and electron radiotherapy
- Skin Care during radiotherapy treatment

What are the benefits of this treatment?

Radiotherapy has damaging effects on any remaining cancer cells. It will also cause some damage to surrounding healthy tissues resulting in some side effects. The benefits of this treatment vary depending on the sort of illness. The aim of treatment may include an attempt to-

- cure the cancer
- or reduce the chances of the cancer coming back after surgery
- or shrink the tumour and slow down its progress to relieve symptoms.

Are there any alternatives to this treatment?

The doctor at your local hospital may have advised you about other possible treatments before referring you for radiotherapy. They will be happy to discuss any concerns you may still have.

What will happen if you do not have this treatment?

If you choose not to have this treatment the cancer may continue to grow. Symptoms may develop and worsen. Some cancers may advance and become incurable.

Side effects- early reactions

Sore, red skin (erythema)

Radiotherapy can make the skin in the treated area become itchy, red, and sore. In some cases the skin can break down. Please follow the advice of the radiographers (and our skin care leaflet) from your first day of treatment. Please continue until at least 3 weeks after your course of treatment has finished.

If you are concerned about your skin reaction after your treatment finishes you may visit your practice nurse or phone the radiotherapy department for advice.

Fatigue

Unless a very large area of your body is included in your treatment it is unlikely to make you feel tired. Fatigue may occur as a consequence of traveling a long distance each day to be treated. Try to keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water and do not force yourself to do things you do not have the energy to do.

Skin healing

If you are having a large area of skin treated or a sensitive area, it may take some time for the skin to recover. It may be several months before the skin is fully healed. During this recovery time it is not unusual for treated areas of skin to form scabs and they may bleed.

Side effects- late reactions

The treated area will be paler than the surrounding area. A skin change called telangiectasia can occur several years after radiotherapy. It appears as little red broken vessels on the skin surface in the treatment area. If the scalp or beard area is treated, hair loss may be permanent in the treated area. On rare occasions an ulcer may form and it may require a minor operation to remove it.

Always make sure you let the radiographers know if you get any side effects. We need you to tell us exactly how you feel not only with regard to side effects, but also your general wellbeing. We are here to help.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Radiotherapy Reception/Transport queries (01772) 522900

Radiotherapy Appointment queries (01772) 522931

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.macmillan.org.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ییچھیبا یج یبھ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے برا ئے مہر یبان پو یچھہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلب آخرى يملكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

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Division: Surgery

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