

Parking during treatment

You will be given a parking permit to use in one of the radiotherapy parking spaces; this must be returned at the end of the course of radiotherapy.

Post Radiotherapy

If you need any assistance after radiotherapy has finished, please contact:

Macmillan Radiographer 01803 654273

Cancer Support Lodge 01803 671521

For further information there are booklets available **FREE OF CHARGE FROM**

Macmillan Cancer Support Freephone 0808 808 00 00
(Mon-Fri 9am-8pm)



**PATIENT
INFORMATION**

Pelvic Radiotherapy (Short Course)

Radiotherapy information for Torbay
Hospital patients

The following information is not intended to be comprehensive, but should give you an idea of what to expect during and soon after your radiotherapy treatment here at Torbay.

General Principles of Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy means the delivery of powerful x-ray beams to a carefully defined area of the body containing a cancer or from where the cancer has been removed.

The type of radiotherapy you will receive is called 'external beam'. This means that the radiation is delivered from a machine, which generates x-rays, a "linear accelerator". The radiation is only produced when the machine is turned on so once your treatment is finished you do not become radioactive.

Arrangements for your Radiotherapy

It is very important that we can target the radiotherapy as accurately as possible. To this end, a CT scan with you lying in the same position as for the radiotherapy itself, enables us to locate the area to be treated.

With your consent, some small permanent marks will be made on your skin. These are used to help reproduce your position accurately during treatment. If you do not wish to have these marks, then the radiographers will discuss other options plus the additional responsibilities on your part to ensure any temporary marks are not lost.

Photographs/electronic images will also be acquired, with your consent. These will be kept in your notes.

Verification: A further image will be taken on the treatment set to confirm your position prior to commencing treatment.

Treatment Details

Treatment is given daily Monday to Friday but not at weekends. There will be 5 treatments in total, each lasting approximately 10 - 15 minutes.

Occasionally one treatment is given, or up to fifteen treatments may be needed. Treatments will be re-arranged if days are missed due to machine breakdown.

Side Effects

Radiotherapy will affect some of your normal tissues in the area treated.

You may feel tired or nauseated but you will not lose your hair. Your bowel and bladder may be affected as follows:

Small bowel

Any small bowel in the radiation field may cause you to have diarrhoea, possibly with some cramping abdominal pains. Anti-diarrhoeal medication can help in this situation. This should pass off within 2 weeks of completing radiotherapy.

Bladder

A small area of the bladder will receive a high dose of radiation, resulting in irritation of the bladder, causing you to pass urine more frequently. Let us know if this happens as we need to exclude an infection. There are some treatments that can ease these symptoms, which should pass off within 2 weeks of completing radiotherapy.