



***PATIENT
INFORMATION***

HDR Insertion to the Vaginal Vault

Radiotherapy information for Torbay Hospital
patients

Introduction

This leaflet relates to the intracavitary treatment which concentrates on the top of the vagina.

Arrangements for your insertion

The facility to deliver this form of radiotherapy is not available in Torbay, so you will have to travel to the Exeter Oncology Centre. The radiographers at Torbay will arrange this for you. This is an out-patient procedure.

The procedure requires two hollow tubes with ovoids attached at the ends to be inserted into the vagina.

A catheter is passed into the bladder so that we can work out the dose to the bladder.

A general anaesthetic is not required; it should be no more uncomfortable than having a cervical smear.

Once inserted and secured, x-rays are taken to check the position and estimate the dose to the rectum and bladder.

The hollow tubes are then connected to a machine containing a radioactive source. This passes along the tubes, delivering radiotherapy from the inside.

The tubes are removed after the treatment. If a subsequent insertion is required, the next time only the tubes and ovoids need to be inserted.

Two insertions are usually prescribed, 2-3 days apart.

For any further information, please contact:

Macmillan Radiographer	01803 654273
Gynaecology Nurse Specialist	01803 654627
Exeter Oncology Department	01392 402147

For further information there are booklets available **FREE OF CHARGE FROM MACMILLAN Cancer Support: Freephone 0808 808 00 00 (Mon-Fri 9am-8pm)**