



***PATIENT
INFORMATION***

Radiotherapy for Bone Metastases

Radiotherapy information for
Torbay Hospital patients

Introduction

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 or stored electronically.

Treatment Details

There will probably be 1 treatment in total, lasting approximately 20 minutes.

Occasionally 5 or 10 treatments are given.

Treatment is given daily Monday to Friday but not at weekends.

Side effects

Radiotherapy will affect some of your normal tissues in the area being treated. You may feel tired or nauseated; you will not lose your hair.

Specific side effects will depend on which bone is treated; these will be discussed at your clinic appointment and before your CT.

Parking during Radiotherapy

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

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

Macmillan Cancer Support

Free phone 0808 808 00 00