Parking during Treatment

You will be given a parking permit to use in one of the radiotherapy parking spaces; this must be returned to the Oncology Reception 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 assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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NHS
Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

Thyroid Eye Disease

Radiotherapy Information for Torbay Hospital Patients

Working with you, for you

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.

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.

A plastic mesh shell will be made for you to wear during your radiotherapy. This will require one visit to the Mould Room in the Medical Physics department at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Wonford). Sometimes the shell may be made at Torbay when you attend for your CT planning scan.

The shell keeps you still and improves accuracy by allowing marks to be put onto the shell.

A CT scan, in Torbay, with you lying in the same position as for the radiotherapy itself and wearing the shell, enables us to locate the area to be treated. All the information is gathered together and a treatment plan produced. This can take 2-2½ weeks.

We may give you a course of steroids to reduce any swelling around the optic nerve prior to and during treatment.

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

There will be 10 treatments in total, each lasting approximately 10-15 minutes.

At least one image will be taken with the linear accelerator during treatment to check on your position.

Side effects
The dose used is very low and side effects are unlikely. There is a small risk that the optic nerve could be compressed by the tissues at the back of the eye during radiotherapy, but steroids usually calm this down.

There is a theoretical risk that a cataract (when the lens of the eye clouds over) could develop years after your radiotherapy.

This can easily be treated by surgical removal. The large studies into your type of radiotherapy have not found this to occur.

There is also a theoretical risk that radiotherapy could cause a cancer to develop up to 20 years after the treatment. This has also not been found to be true so far, but the possibility is taken into account before recommending radiotherapy.

There is also a possibility that the treatment may not work