

PATIENT INFORMATION

Cervical Cancer

Information for Torbay Hospital Patients

Following your diagnosis of cervical cancer, you will have been offered the treatment the Consultant Gynae Oncologist feels is best suited to your particular needs. This may mean surgical removal of the uterus (womb) and cervix (hysterectomy) and possibly the tubes and ovaries too. In some cases it may be necessary to remove lymph nodes. This surgery can now take place laparoscopically (Keyhole-through a telescope type instrument rather than a cut in the abdomen) in most cases.

Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy, in combination, can also be used to treat this disease. This can be given externally, which is carried out at Torbay Hospital, and internally which is carried out at Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. These procedures will be discussed in more detail in the Macmillan booklet you will have been given.

For some women with very early cervical cancer, it may be possible to remove the cervix, the tissue next to the cervix and the upper part of the vagina and the rest of the womb is left in place. This is called a Trachelectomy and means referral to a specialist centre.

This type of surgery means that it may still be possible for women to have children. This will have been discussed fully with you by the Consultant in charge of your care if it is suitable.

Patients of South Devon Healthcare Trust who are having surgery will be admitted to Wynard ward in Exeter, the gynaecological ward. You will be given further information about your operation, recovery and details of the ward during your visits to the clinic.

Multi-Disciplinary Team

This is the name we use to describe the people involved in your care. It is called this because they all have different jobs but together are the people best placed to give advice about what treatment you receive.

The core members of the team are gynaecologists, oncologists, radiologists, pathologists and nurse specialists. When the team discuss your case you are able to have feedback from the meeting which will probably happen at your out-patient appointment or by phone if you are not having an appointment in the near future. Please feel free to ask about this.

If you wish, you are also entitled to a copy of any letters sent to your GP.

Our aim is to make this difficult time as problem free as possible for you, so please feel free to discuss any concerns or problems that you may have. All of the people with whom you will come into contact are here to help. All of your questions and concerns, no matter how simple, are important to you, and so also to us, please do not hesitate to ask the Doctors and Nurses for their advice.

The team concerned with your care will be:

Mr M Singh Consultant Gynaecologist (Torbay)

He may be involved in your initial investigation and possibly follow up after treatment

Contact via his secretary on (01803) 656975 during office hours

Mrs S Coleridge - Gynaecological Oncologist (Exeter)

She carries out all surgery required for cervical cancer with her colleagues from Exeter.

Contact via her secretary at Torbay on 01806 654647 and in Exeter 01392 406614

Mrs S Coleridge is the Specialist Surgeon in Exeter and holds clinics in Torbay Hospital on Mondays.

Dr N Dorey – Consultant Clinical Oncologist.

Dr Dorey will assess your need and suitability for radiotherapy and or chemotherapy.

Contact via her secretary on (01803) 655381 during Office hours

Dr S Harrison or Dr S Higgins - Consultant Radiologists Doctors

Dr's Harrison and Higgins interpret scans and x rays taken and report their findings to other doctors involved in your care during the Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings.

Tracy Hill, Bridget Reddy & Debbie Fitzgerald - Nurse Specialists in Gynaecology/Oncology

Can be contacted on 01803 654627 (answer phone) or bleep via the hospital switchboard on 01803 614567 during office hours, or by prior appointment. They are able to discuss all aspects of your care with you and your family and will liaise with other members of the team on your behalf. They are able to offer support throughout your whole cancer journey.

Suzanne Hill / Jeanette Collings -Support Radiographer. Contact on (01803) 654273

Is able to give you information regarding radiotherapy and will discuss any worries or concerns regarding treatment.

You may find that you have to visit various departments within Torbay Hospital; these are most likely to be:

The Oncology Unit –This is where radiotherapy treatment is given and where the oncology outpatient clinics are held. It is possible you may be asked to go to **Newton Abbot** for your consultation, please let us know if this is going to be a problem for you.

Gynaecology Clinic – This is situated in the Womens Health Unit and a clinic is held on Monday afternoons for patients who have had a diagnosis of cancer so that your follow up will always be by the specialist gynaecologists. If you have radiotherapy your appointment will alternate with the oncologists.

Sexuality and cancer:

Living with cancer and the treatments involved may have an effect on a person's self- image and ability to function on a sexual and relationship level. In some instances overcoming adversity may actually strengthen a relationship and feelings for each other, for others this is not the case. It may be helpful to remember that, though enjoyable, true physical sex is often less important than feeling wanted, accepted, loved and whole. Some people feel they should not be concerned with deficiencies in their sex life, that they should merely be grateful for being alive. This is not the case, and if you have any concerns then please feel free to discuss them with your specialist nurse. She is able to offer time and privacy if needed.

Further help, advice and support:

Eve Appeal. The Eve Appeal was set up to save women's lives by funding the ground breaking research programme at the Gynaecology Cancer Research Centre (GCRC) at University College London.

Butler House177-178

Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7NY

Tel: 0207 299 4430

Fax: 0808 802 0019

email: office@eveappeal.org.uk website- www.eveappeal.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support-Tel: 0808 808 0000

The Lodge Cancer Support Centre-Tel: 01803 656490

Penny Brohn Cancer Care Tel: 0303 300 0118 (Mon-Fri 10-4)

The Menopause Charity www.themenopausecharity.org

Women's Health Concern: Offers information and advice on Gynaecological Problems and publish a wide range of leaflets

Tel: 01628 890199 website: www.womens-health-concern.org

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.