

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Gynaecology – Endometrial Cancer

## Information Leaflet for Torbay Hospital Patients

Following your diagnosis of endometrial cancer you will have been offered the treatment that the Consultant Gynaecologist feels is best suited to your particular needs. This will often mean surgical removal of the uterus (womb) and usually removal of the ovaries too. This surgery can now take place laparoscopically (keyhole - through a telescope type instrument rather than a cut in the abdomen) in most cases this will have been discussed fully with you by the Consultant in charge of your care. You will be given further information about your operation and recovery during your visit to the clinic for pre-operative assessment.

Some patients will be admitted to Wynard ward in Exeter. You will be given further information about your operation, recovery and details of the ward during your visit to the clinic for pre-operative assessment.

Radiotherapy can also be used to treat this disease either after, or instead of surgery. This can be given externally which is carried out at Torbay Hospital, or internally which is carried out at Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

You will be given more detailed information about this treatment if it becomes necessary.

### **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, radiologists, pathologists and nurse specialists. When the team discuss your case you are able to have feedback from the meeting which will probably happen in 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.

### **You are also entitled to a copy of any letters sent to your GP if you would like one**

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 whom you will come into contact with are here to help you. 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.**

Contact via his secretary on (01803) 654647 during office hours

Mr Singh is involved in the diagnosis and surgical treatment of your disease

**Mr M.Hannemann -Gynae Oncologist.**

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

Mr Hannemann is the Specialist Surgeon in Exeter and holds clinics in Torbay Hospital on Mondays

**Dr P.Bliss –Consultant Clinical Oncologist.** Contact via his secretary on (01803) 655385 during Office hours

Dr Bliss will assess your need and suitability for radiotherapy

**Dr S Harrison or Dr S Higgins - Consultant Radiologists**

Drs 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 - Specialist Nurses 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.

**Jeanette Collings - Support Radiographer. Contact on (01803) 654273**

She 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.

**Gynaecology Clinic** – This is situated in the Maternity 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 that 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:**

**Macmillan Cancer Support**-Tel: 0808 808 00 00

**The Lodge Cancer Support Centre**-Tel: 01803 656490

**Penny Brohn Cancer Care** Tel: 0303 3000 118 Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

**Hysterectomy Association Helpline** Tel: 0844 3575 917 (Mon and Wed, 10 till 12)

[Hysterectomy-association.org.uk](http://Hysterectomy-association.org.uk)

**The Menopause Charity** [www.themenopausecharity.org](http://www.themenopausecharity.org)

**Menopause Support**

Private 1-1 consultation with one of the team, for more information please

email [hello@menopausesupport.co.uk](mailto:hello@menopausesupport.co.uk)

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

Tel: 01628 478 473

**Eve Appeal.** The Eve Appeal was set up to save women's lives by funding the groundbreaking research programme at the Gynaecology Cancer Research Centre (GCRC) at University College London. Butler House 177-178 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7NY Tel: 0207 299 4430

Website [www.eveappeal.org.uk](http://www.eveappeal.org.uk) email: [office@eveappeal.org.uk](mailto:office@eveappeal.org.uk)

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