

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Gynaecology - Ovarian Cancer

Following your diagnosis of ovarian cancer, you will have been given information regarding this illness and the treatment options. This information may be relevant to you and women all over the country. The following information relates to the care of women who are treated by the multi-disciplinary team at South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust.

### **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 please ask.**

The team who are concerned with your care are: -

**Mr Singh- Consultant Gynaecologist with a special Interest in Ovarian cancer.**

Can be contacted via his Secretary on 01803 654613 during office hours.

Mr Singh will be involved in your diagnostic tests and surgical treatment.

## **Mrs Sarah Coleridge Consultant Gynae Oncologist**

Can be contacted via her Secretary in Torbay on 01803 654647 or Exeter on 01392 406614 during Office hours.

Mrs Coleridge carries out surgical procedures in Exeter for Torbay patients.

**Dr Nangi Lo - Consultant Medical Oncologist.** Can be contacted via her secretary on 01803 655393 during office hours. Dr Lo will assess your need and suitability for chemotherapy.

## **Dr S Higgins & Dr S Harrison - Consultant Radiologists**

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 Gynaecological Oncology.**

Can be contacted during office hours (or by prior appointment) on 01803 654627 or bleeped via hospital switchboard on 01803 614567

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.

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.

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

**Ricky Grant Day Unit** - For some treatments you may be seen in the outpatient chemotherapy day unit

Contact Chemotherapy help line on 01803 655219 during Office hours

**Turner Ward** - This is an inpatient ward where you may stay if you require some types of chemotherapy

Contact Ward Manager or nurse-in-charge 01803 655527 for advice (available 24 hours a day)

**The Oncology Unit** – This is where you will have appointments during chemotherapy.

Some appointments will be by telephone and some may be at Newton Abbot hospital.

**Gynae/Oncology Clinic** – This is situated in the Women's Health Unit and a clinic is held on Monday afternoons for patients following treatment. This clinic is run by Mr Singh and Mr Hannemann.

Your Specialist Nurse will also usually be present for you to discuss any concerns or problems you may have, please ask any of the clinic nurses if you wish to see her. If she is not present they will ask her to phone you at home.

## **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.

## **Additional help, advice and support**

### **Ovacome.**

Tel: 0800 008 7054

[www.ovacome.org.uk](http://www.ovacome.org.uk)

### **Target Ovarian cancer**

[www.targetovariancancer.org.uk](http://www.targetovariancancer.org.uk)

0207 923 5475

30 Angel Gate, London, EC1V 2PT

### **Ovarian Cancer Action**

8-12 Camden High St

London

NW1 0JH

020 7380 1730

[www.ovarian.org.uk](http://www.ovarian.org.uk)

**Macmillan Cancer Support**

Tel: 0808 808 00 00

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

**The Lodge Cancer Support Centre**

Torbay Hospital Annexe

Tel: 01803 656490

**ROC (Research into Ovarian cancer)**

Tel: 0208 789 1406

**Penny Brohn Cancer Care**

Tel: 0303 3000 118 (mon-fri 10-4)

[www.pennybrohncancercare.org](http://www.pennybrohncancercare.org)

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

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