



PATIENT INFORMATION

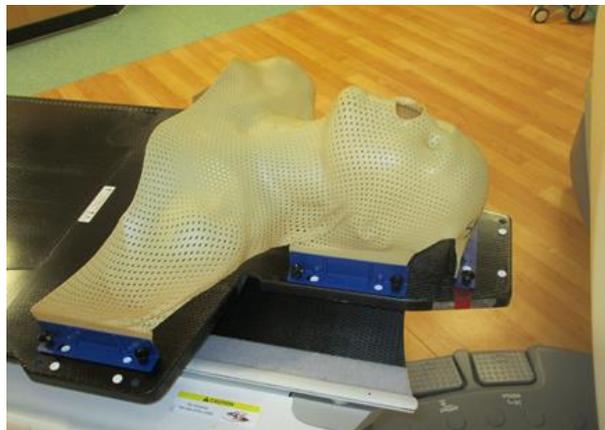
Making of Radiotherapy Treatment Masks for Head and Neck cancer patients

Your radiotherapy treatments are planned very carefully and it is important that you are treated in the same position every time. To help you keep still we will make an immobilisation mask. The mask is made from a plastic material with holes in it and will cover your face and neck. We will ensure it fits comfortably and that you can breathe easily.

How is it made?

The masks are made either at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital in Exeter- you will receive an appointment and directions – or at the Oncology Department, Torbay Hospital.

The mask is made from a plastic which is warmed in water and then moulded around your face (you can breathe through the holes). As the mask cools around your face and neck it goes hard, giving a perfect copy of your face.



How long will it take to make?

It takes about 15 minutes, but you should allow a couple of hours for the process to be completed.

Does it hurt?

Not at all! If you're claustrophobic special arrangements can be made, so please tell us.

What do I need to do?

The process can sometimes be a little messy so we suggest you wear clothing that can be easily removed. Gentlemen should be clean-shaven, a short moustache is acceptable.

What happens after the mask is made?

If your mask has been made in Exeter, you will be given an appointment for a CT scan at the Oncology Department, Torbay Hospital, where the scan and measurements will be taken to make sure your individual treatment needs can be met. If the mask has been made at Torbay, you will have your CT planning scan immediately after it has been made.

You will wear your own mask for every treatment session that will take about 15-25 minutes each day. Your radiographers will fit the mask and secure it to the couch helping you to stay in the correct position, to make sure that your treatment is as accurate as it can be.

Contacts:

Macmillan Support Radiographer: 01803-654273

Head and Neck Specialist Nurse: 01803-655044