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PATIENT INFORMATION

Topical Morphine for Painful Radiotherapy Skin Reactions, Patient Self-administration of

Radiotherapy Information for Torbay
Hospital

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

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Working with you, for you

Introduction

Radiotherapy treatment can sometimes cause areas of your skin to become reddened, broken and very painful in the area you are receiving treatment. This can be very uncomfortable and normally occurs towards the end of your treatment and for a few weeks afterwards. To help you manage these effects it can be helpful to use a preparation of a wound healing gel and morphine liquid mixed together that can be applied to the skin. The following guidelines will explain how to do this.

A prescription will be issued for you for Morphine Sulphate 10mg/1ml ampoules – this is a pain-relieving medicine and this will be mixed with Intrasisite® Gel which you will also be supplied with. You will be supplied with a yellow sharps box, some small sterile containers (gallipots) in which to mix the morphine and gel together, some blunt needles and syringes to draw the medicine out of the containers with, and some swabs so that you can apply the gel mixture to your skin.

Method

Prepare yourself by ensuring you have everything you need and wash your hands before you start.

1. Open your sterile container and place on table top. Empty the contents of the Intrasisite® gel dispenser into the pot- use all of it.
2. Open the morphine ampoule – take care as glass- snap the glass top – there should be a red dot at the point you need to snap
3. Open the packaging of the blunt needle and syringe and attach the end of the syringe into the pale pink end of the blunt needle – keep the sheath on the needle until you are ready to draw up the morphine.
4. Un-sheath the needle and insert into morphine ampoule and use the syringe to draw up the fluid.
5. Empty the morphine in the syringe into the pot containing the Intrasisite® gel and mix together
6. Place needle and empty glass ampoule into sharps box

Wash hands and then apply gel mixture to affected area using the swabs provided. Discard any unused gel and make up fresh preparation for each application.