

At home

After your discharge you will be seen at home by a district nurse to make sure that you have no problems following treatment. This visit usually takes place two to three days after your treatment. An outpatient appointment will be sent to you for your next visit to the hospital. This will be about six weeks after your treatment.

If you have any queries about your treatment or your visit to hospital please do not hesitate to ask. Phone the radiotherapy theatre suite on **0161 446 3522**.

Further information:

Macmillan Cancer Support

Freephone **0808 808 0000** www.macmillan.org.uk

© 2016 The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. This document may be copied for use within the NHS only on the condition that The Christie NHS Foundation Trust is acknowledged as the creator.

For more information about The Christie and our services, please visit www.christie.nhs.uk or visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford.

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
Wilmslow Road
Withington
Manchester M20 4BX
Tel: 0161 446 3000
www.christie.nhs.uk

The Christie Patient Information Service
November 2016 - Review November 2019



The Christie **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Radiotherapy on the microselectron

Information for patients receiving Intraluminal Radiotherapy (ILT) to the oesophagus

What is the microselectron?

The Microselectron is a radiotherapy machine. It contains a miniature source of radiation which can be carefully introduced into the body to give a localised treatment to the tumour. The source is removed when treatment is complete.

What is ILT?

Intraluminal radiotherapy is a method of giving treatment directly to the affected area by placing a fine tube into the oesophagus using a naso-gastric tube (a tube that goes into the stomach via the nose). The tube is connected to the microselectron for treatment.

What will I need to take into hospital?

Wear loose-necked, everyday clothing. **You will not normally have to stay in hospital overnight.** You will not need to change into nightwear.

- please bring with you any medication you are taking at the time
- an overnight bag in case you need to stay in hospital after treatment
- if possible, your Christie appointment card

What to do on the day you come for treatment

On the day you are having treatment you may have a light breakfast, such as tea and toast. If you usually take any medication in the morning, take it at breakfast time. You should have nothing else to eat or drink after 9am.

Will I need to stay in hospital?

No, you will not usually have to stay in hospital - you can go home the same day. The doctor will need to examine you before treatment begins, so a bed will be reserved for you for that day.

A relative or friend may accompany you to the hospital. They will not be able to stay with you during treatment, but can wait for your return.

Transport

If you need an ambulance or hospital transport, please remember that you will be returning home the same day.

If you are coming by hospital transport an escort may be able to come with you, but this is based on medical need. If you then need to stay overnight, they will have to find their own way home.

How is the treatment given?

- You will be admitted to a ward, but you will have your treatment in the radiotherapy theatre suite. When you arrive on the ward you will be seen by a doctor who will explain the procedure to you.
- You will be escorted to the theatre where you will have a local anaesthetic (in the form of a spray or gel) applied to your nose and throat.
- A narrow tube will then be passed through the nostril, and you will be asked to swallow it into the gullet (oesophagus). The tube will be taped round your nose and to your forehead.
- You will be asked to take a drink and an X-ray of the chest will be taken whilst you are swallowing this drink to make sure the tube is in the right place. The tube will then be connected to the microselectron for treatment.

- Once the treatment is finished the tube is removed. You will be advised not to eat or drink anything for one hour after treatment to allow the anaesthetic to wear off.

How long will the procedure take?

From start to finish, the whole procedure takes about one hour. The treatment time will be on average 15 minutes, but this can vary from one patient to another.

Will the treatment hurt?

Putting the tube down can sometimes be a little uncomfortable but the treatment itself is painless.

After the treatment

When you return to the ward, you will be asked to remain there for at least one hour while the anaesthetic wears off. After that time you will be given a drink of water and if you are able to tolerate this, you can have a cup of tea. Shortly after this you may have something to eat.

A doctor will see you before you leave the ward to make sure that you are well enough to travel home.

When will I start to feel better?

The treatment can take from two to four weeks to start to have an effect. You may notice some discomfort when swallowing. Please ask the ward staff for advice before leaving as medicines can be prescribed to relieve the discomfort. If you have any problems when you get home please get in touch with your GP.

After about four weeks this side effect will subside and you should begin to feel some benefit from your treatment. The amount of benefit gained can vary from person to person.