

## **The Head and Neck Team at Central Manchester Royal Infirmary and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust**

### **Head and neck cancer treatment: a guide for patients**

This information leaflet is for patients who have been diagnosed with a head and neck cancer (excluding thyroid cancer) and who are under the care of our multidisciplinary team.

### **Head and neck cancer**

#### **What is head and neck cancer?**

'Head and Neck cancers' are cancers arising in the head and neck region excluding the brain and thyroid gland and include:

- cancers of the mouth, throat, neck and nose/sinuses
- cancers of salivary glands (mainly parotid and submandibular glands)
- cancer of the ear
- some cancers of the skin of the face
- advanced cancer of the face/eye area.

#### **Diagnosis**

The diagnosis of a cancer will have been made in the hospital where patients are seen initially before referral to our team. This will have involved a combination of needle biopsy tests, biopsy under a general anaesthetic and scans.

#### **Referral to our team**

When a patient is referred to our team, all details of the diagnosis are discussed in a weekly meeting. This gives allows us to scrutinise all the available information. Treatment options for each patient are determined.

#### **Being seen in clinic**

Patients are then seen in clinic, usually in the head and neck clinic at The Christie. This clinic is arranged so that most of the head and neck team are present in the same area of The Christie at the same time so that it is possible for several members of the team to see a patient on the same visit if necessary. Treating cancers in this part of the body is complex and doctors and specialists from different specialties all need to work together to provide the best care for patients.

Patients are seen by one of the medical members of the team, together with other members as appropriate. In some cases, extra investigations may be required, for example more scans. Treatment options and recommendations will be discussed and explained at this time.

## **Treatment**

If surgery is the first treatment, this is done at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Patients will be seen in a pre-operative assessment clinic at Manchester Royal Infirmary. This is to make sure that all preparations have been made for safe general anaesthetic and surgery. This visit may involve blood tests, a heart trace (ECG), and other investigations as necessary. The team will also prepare patients more specifically for major head and neck surgery, if appropriate. Some patients may need to be admitted for a few days for preparation if there are specific needs.

After surgery and discharge from Manchester Royal Infirmary, patients will be seen at The Christie and the team will then decide whether further treatment (for example, radiotherapy) is necessary.

If the initial treatment is radiotherapy or chemotherapy or a combination of the two (chemo-radiotherapy), patients are seen in a radiotherapy planning clinic at The Christie by the clinical oncology (radiotherapy) team.

## **Follow-up**

Patients are often seen for follow up initially at The Christie, but the follow-up can be transferred in most cases to the local hospital nearer to where they live, depending on exact circumstances and preferences.

## **Who we are**

There are a lot of health professionals involved in patient care, some of whom are “behind the scenes” and whom patients never see such as radiologists (doctors who specialise in looking at X-rays and scans) and pathologists (doctors who look at cancer specimens or biopsies).

## **Medical team (surgeons and oncologists)**

### **Surgeons:**

Professor Jarrod Homer  
Mr Sean Loughran  
Mr Tim Blackburn  
Miss Susannah Penney  
Mr Massimo Maranzano

### **Clinical oncologists:**

Professor Nick Slevin  
Dr Kate Garcez

### **Oral rehabilitation dental consultants:**

Dr Craig Barclay  
Mr Ahmed Al-Khayatt

## **Nurse clinician**

Ms Kathleen Mais (The Christie)

## **Clinical nurse specialist (CNS) key worker:**

Sister Barbara Farrimond (Manchester Royal)  
Mr Philip Bryce (Manchester Royal)  
Sister Debbie Elliott (The Christie)  
Sister KerENZA Graves (Royal Bolton)  
Sister Lynne Heptonstall (Tameside Hospital)  
Sister Catherine Cameron (Wigan & Leigh Hospital)  
Sister Kate Hindley (Royal Salford)  
Sister Andrea Urban (Trafford Hospital)

## **Allied health professionals (hospital based):**

Mrs Frances Ascott (Speech & Language Therapist, Manchester Royal Infirmary)  
Mrs Jenny Farnell (Speech & Language Therapist, Manchester Royal Infirmary)  
Mrs Hilary Smith (Speech & Language Therapist, Manchester Royal Infirmary)  
Hannah Coulthurst (Dietitian, Manchester Royal Infirmary)  
Mrs Helen Rust (Speech & Language Therapist, The Christie)  
Elizabeth Evans (Physiotherapist, Manchester Royal)  
Nicola McGill (Physiotherapist, Manchester Royal Infirmary)  
Sister Kim Denton (Lead Research Nurse, The Christie)

## **Please note:**

Each patient may see different members of the above team at various stages of their journey, determined by their specific needs.

