



Pain and symptom control team

After your cordotomy

Information following your procedure

You have had a cordotomy. This procedure involved heating some of the pain nerves in the spinal cord that transmit pain information to the brain so that they stop working.

Following the procedure you may experience the following:

- A pain or ache behind your ear or in your neck where the needle was inserted. This will ease over the next few days.
- A warm/cold/altered sensation in the hand on the side of your original pain (this sometimes affects the whole side of the body below the neck). Unfortunately there is little that can be done about this (it is not reversible).
- Inability to distinguish hot and cold on the side of your original pain.
- An increased feeling of fatigue (tiredness) for up to two weeks following cordotomy.
- Weakness in the arm and leg on the same side that the cordotomy was performed (on the opposite side from your original pain). This rarely lasts more than one month.

The cordotomy appears to have been successful. Therefore we have reduced your painkiller. It is important that this medication is reduced slowly.

The painkilling medication has been reduced to:- _____

You should remain on this dose for:- _____

You should then contact your GP or Macmillan nurse for further medication advice.

If you have any problems or questions, please contact your GP or the pain secretary on 0161 446 8493 (available for advice Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

