

Thyroid cancer multi-disciplinary team

Information for patients

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



The multi-disciplinary team (MDT)

Following your cancer diagnosis, the doctors looking after you have referred you to The Christie for consideration of further treatment.

It is our job to consider all the relevant information and after discussion with you to recommend a plan of action for treatment.

The team

A team of specialist doctors and nurses make up the team. The core MDT members are:

The consultant thyroid surgeon

This is a surgeon who specialises in carrying out operations to remove thyroid cancer.

The thyroid cancer nurse specialist

This is a nurse who is an expert in caring for and supporting people with thyroid cancer. The thyroid cancer nurse specialist can also help you by providing information and support especially around the time of treatment and for aftercare following treatment.

The radiologist

This is a doctor who is an expert at looking at X-rays and special scans such as CT, MRI, bone and ultrasound scans. These scans enable the team to make a diagnosis and recommend the best treatment for you.

The histopathologist

This is a doctor who is an expert in looking at cancer cells under a microscope to determine the exact diagnosis and to work out how the cells in your cancer might behave in the future.

The oncologist

This is a doctor based at The Christie who is an expert in using radioactive iodine treatment, drugs or radiotherapy as part of the treatment for thyroid cancer.

The endocrinologist

This is a doctor based at The Christie who is an expert in the medical management of thyroid related issues such as calcium and hormonal problems.

All these specialists work together to recommend the best options for the treatment of your cancer.

Patient-centred care: you come first

It is important that we know your views on what treatment(s) would be acceptable to you and therefore we will discuss these options with you when you come for your appointment.

The purpose of the multi-disciplinary team meeting is to allow the group of specialists to review all the information such as biopsy results, scans etc and to consider your opinion and your general health before arriving at a conclusion. This recommendation will take into account:

- all appropriate treatment options that are available to you
- the suitability of any clinical trials that might be available to you.

The team meets every 2 weeks to ensure that cases can be discussed without delay.

When a decision has been made with you about your treatment, we will inform your GP straight away.

Any questions

If you have further questions, or you are worried about or don't understand something you have heard, your key worker (the thyroid cancer specialist nurse), will be able to help. You will have been given their contact number.