

CHRISTIE HOTLINE

0161 446 3658



GETTING A FEVER OR DEVELOPING AN INFECTION?

Any cancer treatment can temporarily reduce your ability to fight infection. Infections develop rapidly. If you think you have an infection, you will need prompt advice.

Early infections can be treated easily.
Delay could be life-threatening.

Some of the signs of an infection are:

- feeling unwell with a temperature below 36.0 °C or above 37.5 °C
- shivering or experiencing hot/cold sweats
- diarrhoea for more than 24 hours and / or new abdominal pain
- feeling breathless, a cough / coughing up sputum
- sore throat
- new confusion / disorientation
- redness or swelling (especially around lines, drains or wounds)
- urinary changes: increase in frequency, pain, colour or smell

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I AM A CHRISTIE PATIENT

Name:

Hospital no:

Consultant:

My treatment:

If you are unwell during or following your cancer treatment, please call The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658

URGENT ADVICE FOR CLINICIANS

The treatment is potentially myelosuppressive.

Antibiotic guidance

- If patient has received SACT in the last 6 weeks and presents with suspected or confirmed infection and/or has a temperature of 38.0°C or above, give IV antibiotic cover.
- **Do not wait** for blood results.
Adhere to 1 hour antibiotic target from initial recognition.

For all patients give:

Antibiotic as per local policy

Please note, many chemotherapy regimens contain platinum agents. If received in the last 7 days, avoid aminoglycosides and give Meropenem 1g TDS instead.

Christie local policy:

Piperacillin/Tazobactam (Tazocin) 4.5g QDS. Gentamicin 5mg per kilogram OD (max dose 500mg).

If penicillin allergic (non-anaphylaxis, non-severe reaction), or cannot have gentamicin, Meropenem 1g TDS.

If there is no improvement within 24 - 48 hours, contact the relevant oncologist or haematologist on 0161 446 3000

Guidelines for treatment of neutropenic sepsis are available on our website at <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/neutropenic>

Website: www.christie.nhs.uk