Patient Information Sheet

Examination under Anaesthesia +/- Cystoscopy +/- Biopsy

Your Doctor has decided that you need to come into hospital for an examination under anaesthetic. This is a pelvic examination which is carried out while you are asleep. The aim of this examination is to decide the stage of your cancer and helps us plan the best treatment option for you.

During the examination it may be necessary to take a biopsy and we may need to look into your bladder with a camera. This is called a cystoscopy.

A cystoscopy involves inserting a fine tube into your bladder which is attached to a camera. This is usually a very safe procedure, however, there are risks. These risks are rare but may include:

- Injury to the bladder (perforation) during the insertion of the tube into your bladder. In the rare event of this happening we may need to place a catheter tube into your bladder and you may need to stay in hospital longer than originally planned. You may also need to have antibiotic treatment.
- In cases where biopsies are taken there is a very small risk of bleeding, however, this can normally be controlled at the time of surgery.
- Infection; to reduce the risk of infection we give antibiotic treatment at the time of surgery.
The examination is usually a day case procedure unless you have any medical problems which require a longer stay in hospital.

**Going Home**

You will be able to go home once you have made a full recovery from the anaesthetic. However you will need to arrange for someone to drive you home and have someone to stay with you for the first 24 hours following the anaesthetic. General anaesthesia can temporarily affect your co-ordination and reasoning skills, so you should not drink alcohol, operate machinery or sign legal documents for 24 hours after the procedure. Nausea, discomfort and tiredness are common side effects during the first few days following surgery.

**Pain Relief**

You may have some mild discomfort for the first few days following your procedure. Simple painkillers, such as Paracetamol should help. If you require any additional pain killers please speak with the ward staff prior to discharge.

**Preventing Infection**

You may experience some light bleeding, use sanitary pads rather than tampons until your bleeding has stopped. Avoid sources of infection, such as swimming pools or saunas until bleeding has settled.

**Physical Activity**

You will have to take it easy for a day or so but should be able to return to normal daily activities after that.

**Sexuality and Relationships**

Resuming sexual intercourse will depend on when you feel ready. We advise you avoid penetrative intercourse for the first week or at least until bleeding has settled. If you experience any problems once you resume sexual intercourse discuss with your GP or Surgeon at your follow up appointment.
When to call your doctor
Seek medical attention if any of the following occur:

- Severe pain not controlled by pain killers
- Fever, shaking or chills or other signs of fever
- Signs of wound infection including increased redness, swelling, tenderness, warmth or drainage from the wound
- Offensive smelling vaginal discharge
- Excess vaginal bleeding
- Severe pain in either calf or leg or sudden onset shortness of breath or chest pain

Follow Up
Make sure you are aware of your follow up plan prior to discharge, if you have any concerns please discuss these with your doctor or nurse. For any appointment queries please contact your Consultant’s secretary on the numbers below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultant</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>(0191)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr W Helm</td>
<td>Lillian Lee</td>
<td>4456148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr K Godfrey</td>
<td>Elaine Denham</td>
<td>4452872</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr A Kucukmetin</td>
<td>Christine Hall</td>
<td>4456146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr R Naik</td>
<td>Gail Beig</td>
<td>4452597</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss C Ang</td>
<td>Victoria Harding</td>
<td>4452597</td>
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Support on discharge
Following your discharge from the ward if you feel that you require additional support at home please contact your District Nurse/GP who will be able to direct you to the appropriate services once you are home.

It is important to inform us if you are admitted to another hospital whilst under the care of the Gynae-Oncology team at the QEH. If possible could you or a family member inform us by contacting your consultant secretary if this should occur.
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Main Hospital Number:
(0191) 482 0000
Ward 21:
(0191) 445 2021
Colposcopy Clinic:
(0191) 445 6178

For further information:
www.jotrust.co.uk
www.macmillan.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Sheriff Hill
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE9 6SX
Telephone: (0191) 482 0000
Version 1: November 2013
Review Date August 2015

Data Protection

Any personal information is kept confidential. There may be occasions where your information needs to be shared with other care professionals to ensure you receive the best care possible.

In order to assist us improve the services available your information may be used for clinical audit, research, teaching and anonymised for National NHS Reviews. Further information is available in the leaflet Disclosure of Confidential Information IL137, via Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust website or the PALS Service.

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Author: Robyn Lynch / Alison Guest

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request