

Planning treatment for cervical cancer

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This information leaflet has been written to give you some information about planning treatment for cervical cancer. The information in this leaflet should already have been explained to you by a doctor. We hope that this helps you remember what you discussed with your doctor and also to answer any questions that you may have. If you still have questions after reading this leaflet, then please contact a member of your clinical team on one of the telephone numbers at the end of this leaflet.

How do we decide on what treatment is best for you?

Cancer of the cervix can be treated in many different ways. Staging of the disease is very important, as this refers to the size of the cancer and whether it has spread to other parts of your body. This determines the treatment you will be offered.

If the cancer is contained within the cervix, also known as stage 1, the treatment would be surgery. However if the cancer has spread beyond the cervix chemo-radiotherapy would be the treatment selected rather than an operation. Occasionally for a small number of women, the findings after surgery mean that chemo-radiotherapy is also needed.

In order to find out the right treatment for you further important investigations such as a CT scan, MRI scan and examination under anaesthetic may be needed. Without these it is difficult for your doctor to determine which treatment is most beneficial for you. When those investigations are completed you will see the doctor in clinic to discuss the results and management/treatment plan.

What support is available for me?

Clinical Nurse Specialist:

You should have contact details of a clinical nurse specialist (key worker) from your local hospital. Even though you are having treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital your local nurse remains an important point of contact for you. Contact details will be provided to you for the clinical nurse specialists from Queen Elizabeth hospital. You are entitled to attend for a holistic needs assessment (HNA). This assessment can take place at your local hospital or Queen Elizabeth Hospital at diagnosis, during any treatment you receive or once treatment has been completed. It gives you the opportunity to discuss concerns and fears they could be:

- Emotional
- Physical
- Spiritual
- Financial
- Practical

It allows both yourself and your clinical nurse specialist to put a plan in place. If you would like to arrange this please do not hesitate to contact your local clinical nurse specialist.

Prescription exemption

If you are diagnosed with cancer you are exempt from prescription charges. Contact your GP and they will issue a certificate for this.

Who can I contact for further information?

For queries about issues such as appointments, parking and transport please contact your consultant's secretary. Contact details can be found on the "Information for patients" leaflet that you were given at your initial appointment or by contacting the hospital switchboard on 0191 4820000 and asking for the gynaecological oncology secretaries.

Clinical Nurse Specialists:

(Monday –Friday) - 8.30am -4.30pm (not including bank holidays)

Tel 0191 4453404 or 0191 482000 and ask for bleep 2361

Tel 0191 4452123 or 0191 4820000 and ask for bleep 2344

Tel 0191 4456707 or 0191 4820000 and ask for bleep 2341

Ward 21

24hrs Tel 0191 4452021

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Tel 0800 953 0667

Email: ghnt.pals.service@nhs.net

NHS 111

If you're worried about an urgent medical concern, you can call 111 to speak to a fully trained adviser.

Your GP telephone number :

Other useful contact

Macmillan Cancer Information & Support – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead. Open Cancer information and support centre. Open Monday-Friday 10.00-16.00 Telephone answering service. Telephone on 0191 445 2979 email: Macmillaninfo@ghnt.nhs.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support: 0808239 3783 – seven days a week, 8am - 8pm.

The following organisations provides advice and support for women diagnosed with cervical cancer

The Eve Appeal - Telephone: 02076050100 or visit <https://eveappeal.org.uk>

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust - Telephone helpline: 0808 802 8000 or visit <https://www.jostrust.org.uk/about-cervical-cancer>

Please use this page to note down any additional questions you may have

References & Acknowledgements

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support/cervical-cancer/treating/treatment-decisions/understanding-your-diagnosis/treatment-overview.html>

Research Projects

The NGOC department is actively involved in several research projects with the aim of increasing understanding of cancer and improving care of all patients. You may be approached by a member of the research team during your investigation, treatment or during follow-up to be part of a research project that you may be eligible to participate in. Whilst we encourage all patients to consider getting involved, this is not essential and your care will not be affected if you choose not to participate.

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 to improve the services available, your information may be used for clinical audit, research, teaching and anonymised for National NHS Reviews and Statistics.

Further information is available via Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust website or by contacting the Data Protection Officer by telephone on 0191 445 8418 or by email ghnt.ig.team@nhs.net.

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

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