



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Your radiotherapy and Temozolomide treatment

Your name: _____

- King Edward Ward (KEW) 8.30am to 4.30pm:
0118 322 7464
- Adelaide Oncology Ward (advice only)
4.30pm to 8.30am including weekends/bank
holidays: 0118 322 7471
- Radiotherapy Department: 0118 322 7872
- Neuro Oncology Clinic Appointments:
0118 322 7878
- Neuro oncology Nurse: 0118 322 8542

You are about to begin a combination therapy of radiotherapy and Temozolomide for six weeks, followed by a four week break and then restarting Temozolomide for six months (five days out of 28). This leaflet has been created to enable you, your family or carer to help you understand your treatment.

Temozolomide is an oral chemotherapy (taken in tablet form). It works by crossing into the brain and interfering with the way cancer cells split and multiply. Please read the Macmillan leaflet for more information about your Temozolomide.

Radiotherapy treats cancer cells by using high-energy rays to destroy cancer cells, with treatment carefully planned to damage healthy cells as little as possible. Please read the hospitals “radiotherapy to the brain” leaflet.

Your treatment plan

Radiotherapy: Prior to starting your treatment you will be contacted by the Radiotherapy Department with an appointment for radiotherapy planning. At this appointment you will be given a start date for your radiotherapy treatment. Radiotherapy is given in the hospital Radiotherapy Department as a series of short daily sessions from Monday to Friday with a rest at the weekend.

Pre-chemotherapy assessment at King Edward Ward (KEW):

You will receive a telephone call to attend a pre-chemotherapy assessment at KEW. This appointment is made as near as possible to your radiotherapy start date as possible. KEW will give you your first two weeks’ supply of Temozolomide.

You will also be given anti-sickness tablets and antibiotics. They will explain the process involved when taking your oral chemotherapy and answer any questions you may have.

Your medications

You will have an anti-sickness tablet called metoclopramide or domperidone, to take 30 minutes before taking the chemotherapy. You will need to take your chemotherapy on an empty stomach, two hours after food. The chemotherapy helps to increase the cells sensitivity to radiotherapy. You will be asked to take your chemotherapy one hour before your radiotherapy treatment time. With the aim of you having radiotherapy 1-1½ hours after you have taken your chemotherapy tablets. During the time of both radiotherapy and chemotherapy, you will also take an antibiotic called co-trimoxazole (Septrin) three times a week on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays

Pre assessment will also give you a purple chemotherapy record book that you should bring with you whenever you attend hospital.

During your treatment

During your six weeks of radiotherapy and Temozolomide you will have a weekly blood test taken on a Wednesday or Thursday in Radiotherapy.

You will be seen in the Oncology Clinic every week on a Friday morning. This will be to review your blood results and discuss any side effects or questions you may have.

Your Temozolomide for weeks 3-6 will be given to you in clinic by your specialist nurse.

When you have finished your chemo-radiotherapy

You will be posted a copy of your 'End of treatment summary' (a copy of this will also be sent to your GP). This explains your treatment and what to expect from your GP.

At the end of your chemo-radiotherapy you will meet with your oncologist and be given a date for when you need to come back to clinic to re-start chemotherapy.

A blood card will be given to you to have a blood test at your GP surgery 24-48 hours before your next clinic appointment.

What to expect at your first clinic appointment four weeks after chemo-radiotherapy

If you are well enough and your blood results are OK you can start your next cycle of Temozolomide (you take Temozolomide for five days out of 28 every month for six months).

You will be taking your Temozolomide at a higher dose than when you took it with your radiotherapy. You will be seen in clinic every four weeks in the following six month period and given your chemotherapy by your specialist nurse.

A blood test will be required before each clinic review. Your GP surgery can do these blood tests.

Useful contacts for you, your family or carer

- Brainstrust Charity - brain tumour support group. Tel: 01983 292 405; hello@brainstrust.org.uk
- The Brain Tumour Charity support@thebraintumourcharity.org
- Macmillan www.macmillan.org.uk Call free on [0808 808 00 00](tel:08088080000) (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm)
- The Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust - for people living in West Berkshire. Can also provide transport to and from the hospital for a small contribution www.newburycancercare.org.uk
- Shine - cancer support for 20s 30s 40s info@shinecancersupport.co.uk
- RBH Macmillan information: Tel: 0118 322 8700



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

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