



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Prostate exam clinic:

Hormone therapy patient plan

This folder provides you with information regarding your diagnosis, treatment plan and follow-up, as well as contact details and information regarding the team involved in your care.

Please bring this document to all urology hospital appointments and use the table to fill in any PSA blood results.

This plan belongs to: _____

Hospital Number: _____

Consultant in charge of care: _____

Presenting PSA: _____

Diagnosis: **Right** **Left**

Gleason: _____ _____

Cores: _____ _____

Volume: _____ _____

PSA blood test results

Months post diagnosis	Date	PSA value	MRI result if appropriate	Biopsy result if appropriate
0				
3				
6				
8				
12 (1 year)				
18				
24 (2 years)				
30				
36 (3 years)				
42				
48 (4 years)				
54				
60 (5 years)				
72 (6 years)				
84 (7 years)				
96 (8 years)				
108 (9 years)				
120 (10 years)				

What is hormone therapy?

Hormone therapy works by stopping the hormone testosterone from reaching prostate cancer cells. It treats the cancer, wherever it is in the body. Testosterone controls how the prostate gland grows and develops. It also controls male characteristics, such as erections, muscle strength, and the growth of the penis and testicles. Most of the testosterone in your body is made by the testicles and a small amount by the adrenal glands which sit above your kidneys. Testosterone doesn't usually cause problems, but if you have aggressive prostate cancer, it can make the cancer cells grow faster. In other words, testosterone feeds the prostate cancer. If testosterone is taken away, the cancer will usually shrink, wherever it is in the body. Hormone therapy alone won't cure your prostate cancer but it can keep it under control, sometimes for several years, before you need further treatment. It is also used with other treatments, such as radiotherapy, to make them more effective.

What is PSA?

PSA stands for Prostate Specific Antigen. This is a naturally occurring substance measured by a blood test and is used to monitor activity from the prostate cells in the body.

What is Gleason grade?

If there is prostate cancer in your biopsy samples, they are given a Gleason grade. This grade tells you how aggressive the cancer is – in other words, how likely the cancer is to grow and spread outside the prostate. When cancer cells are looked at under the microscope, they have different patterns, depending on how quickly they are likely to grow. The pattern is given a grade from 1 to 5. This is called the Gleason grade. If a grade is given, it will usually be 3 or higher, as grade 1 and 2 are not cancer.

An overall Gleason score is worked out by adding together two Gleason grades. The first is the most commonly seen grade in all the samples (i.e. representing the 'typical' grade). The second is the highest grade seen in the sample (i.e. indicating the grade in the most affected cells). When the most common and the highest grade are added together, the total is called the Gleason score.

What is doubling time?

This is the time taken for the PSA to double. This is worked out by looking at a number of PSA values over time. It is a measure of how quickly a cancer may be growing.

What was the bone scan for?

You might have a bone scan if there's a chance your cancer has spread outside the prostate. A bone scan can show whether any cancer cells have spread to the bone. This is a common place for prostate cancer to spread to.

Further information is available through your nurse specialist or at www.prostatecanceruk.org

