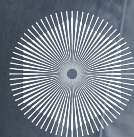

End of Treatment Care

What happens now?

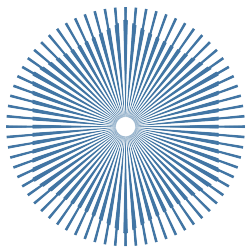
Information for patients

Stereotactic Radiosurgery



Queen Square

RADIOSURGERY CENTRE
an Amethyst UK company



Queen Square

R A D I O S U R G E R Y C E N T R E

an Amethyst UK company

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You have now completed your radiosurgery treatment and we will be discharging you from hospital.

You are probably feeling very relieved that it is all over but worried about your aftercare and possible side effects from the treatment.

The aim of this booklet is to give you information on how you will feel and what to expect. It also contains contact numbers should you feel anxious about your condition after treatment so please keep it for a while.

Immediate Side Effects

You may experience a mild headache over the next 24 hours, and your scalp can feel numb and tingly.

Your pin sites on your scalp can feel sore as the effect of the anesthetic wears off this evening, but you can take your normal pain relief to help. The tiny holes may ooze a little over night but should have scabbed over by the morning.

We would like them to stay dry and in place as these scabs prevent infection and are the best protection for the holes, so please:

- **DON'T** wash your hair for three days
- **DON'T** cover the holes with Elastoplast or any creams or lotions
- **DON'T** pick the scabs
- **DO** be careful combing or brushing your hair
- **DO** take mild painkillers if they still feel sore

If you notice swelling, redness and increasing pain from your pin sites, please go to your GP as you may require antibiotics for an infection.

You may still have a numb scalp, and this can last quite a while (some people say weeks).

Is there anything I should look out for at home?

The feeling of tiredness can last some time. This will vary for each person depending on what you had treated and how well you were beforehand.

We would advise you to take it easy for a couple of days and then assess whether you feel fit to resume your normal pace of life. For most of you that should be very soon.

In the event of medical emergency, such as a seizure or sudden onset of limb weakness, you must call 999 and ask for an ambulance or go to your local A&E department. Take this information leaflet with you.



Later effects that will only be experienced by a few people

If you have had seizures or epilepsy in the past you may experience a further seizure after treatment. This is caused by the local effects of the treatment on the brain and is not a cause for concern. Only a few people will experience this. Should you experience any new or a change in seizure activity please contact your GP/referring consultant in the first instance. We would appreciate it if you could also inform the Gamma Knife team of these seizures following radiosurgery as this would assist us in the treatment of patients in the future.

Radiosurgery treatment can cause a small patch of hair loss if the area treated is near the surface of the brain. Three to four weeks after treatment the hair in this small area will fall out. Your skin may be slightly sore and pink at first and the hair will start to re-grow in about three months' time. The team will advise you of the location and estimate the size of the area if this is applicable to you.

Late side effects

The medical staff who saw you before your treatment and obtained your informed consent will have explained to you the possible, fortunately rare, side effects that may occur after treatment. As these are very much dependent on the nature of your condition, they will not be listed in this general leaflet. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to ask.

Follow-up care

On completion of your radiosurgery treatment a discharge letter is automatically sent to your referring consultant and GP outlining the details of your treatment plan. The responsibility for your care passes back to your referring consultant at this point. Any follow up appointments, including scans, will be arranged locally by your referring team.

Although your care has been passed back to your referring team you can contact us at any time if you have any concerns or questions regarding your treatment.

If you were taking Dexamethasone prior to your admission, your dose may need to be changed in the period following your treatment. When your treatment is completed, and you are discharged from the hospital your Dexamethasone dose will be

It is very important that your Dexamethasone dose is reviewed after your radiosurgery treatment is completed and this should be discussed with your referring consultant or GP. Again, this only applies if you were taking Dexamethasone prior to your admission for radiosurgery.

DVLA restrictions should have been discussed with you by your referring consultant prior to your radiosurgery appointment. If you are unsure please refer to the DVLA website for further information.

You will have **a CT or MRI scan** at regular intervals organised by your local consultant. This will enable us to assess your response to treatment which does not happen immediately.

Your notes

Your next appointment will be with.....in.....weeks.

Your next scan will be in.....weeks at.....hospital.

Please call.....if you have not received your expected appointments.

Please feel free to contact us on +44 (0)208 713 0428 if you have any concerns.

