

Patient information factsheet

Wessex neuro-oncology multidisciplinary team

The doctors looking after you have referred your case to the Wessex neuro-oncology multidisciplinary team (MDT) for an opinion on the best way of investigating and treating your condition.

This document explains why this is necessary and what will now happen.

What is a neuro-oncology multidisciplinary team?

This is a group of professionals with expert knowledge in the investigation and treatment of patients who may have a brain tumour. Not every patient referred to this team has got a tumour; rather, this might be one of several possibilities. There are many members of the team, and these include:

- Neuroradiologists (to look at scans)
- Neurosurgeons (to carry out surgery)
- Neuro-oncologists (to give radiotherapy and chemotherapy)
- Neuropathologists (to look at biopsies)
- Neurologists (to manage epilepsy, vascular and inflammatory conditions)
- Clinical nurse specialists (to provide patient support and information).

Who is in the Wessex neuro-oncology MDT?

There are many members of the group, including:

Mr Paul Grundy, Mr Andrew Durnford, Miss Joy Roach and Mr Arif Zafar	Consultant neurosurgeons
Dr Jeng Ching, Dr Enrico Clarke and Dr Sean Main	Consultant neuro oncologists, Southampton
Dr Eleni Simpson and Dr James Lowe	Consultant neuro oncologists, Portsmouth
Dr Lauren Gorf and Dr Mark Noble	Consultant neuro oncologists, Poole
Dr Faraz Skeikh and Dr Victoria Reay	Consultant neuro radiologists
Dr Mark Fabian and Dr Mark Walker	Consultant neuro pathologists
Janet Day, Stephanie Crawford, Toni Slaven, Danielle Martin and Lauren Bruce	Clinical nurse specialists

When is the neuro-oncology MDT meeting?

The members of this MDT meet every Tuesday morning to discuss the management of every new patient who is diagnosed with a suspected brain tumour and to review patients who have

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already had some treatment. The recommendations of the MDT will be sent back to your local doctors within 24 hours of the meeting, provided all of the relevant documentation and scans were available for us to review in that meeting.

Why do we have to wait for this meeting?

Brain tumours are rare and the management is complex and specialised. In order for your case to be managed in the best possible way, there is a need for it to be discussed (before any treatment) by this group of experts. It is now a national recommendation of NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) that all patients are discussed in a meeting of this kind and are treated by dedicated specialists. This provides you with the best care.

What will happen from now?

Your local doctors may well have already discussed your case with a member of the neurosurgery team by telephone and will have probably already started you on some medical treatment. You may have had a CT scan of the head and you will usually need an MRI scan of the brain and sometimes CT scans of the rest of your body. This is to allow us to make the best decision about your treatment. If you are well enough, you will probably be discharged home and will be contacted with the outcome of the MDT meeting, either by your local doctors or by the MDT. The next steps will then be explained. You may, for example, require more tests, either at your local hospital or at the Wessex Neurological Centre and you may be seen in a clinic by a specialist or be admitted or transferred here for further care.

I have some more questions. Who do I ask?

Your local doctors and your GP should be able to answer all of your questions initially and they will receive written advice from the MDT the day following the meeting. Please discuss any problems with them in the first instance, as the MDT coordinator will not be able to provide you with any more information until after this time.

Can I be seen and treated privately?

The Wessex Neurological Centre accepts and treats NHS and private patients. This includes outpatient clinics, investigations and surgery. The oncology centres also treat private patients with radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

Private patients are treated outside of routine NHS lists to in no way compromise the care of NHS patients.

The income generated by the hospital in treating private patients is used to improve facilities for all patients in the future. If you wish to be seen and treated privately please contact the MDT coordinator on **023 8120 6596** or Mr Grundy's secretary on **023 8120 4803**.

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**