

An introduction to the multidisciplinary team for Gynaecological cancers

Introduction

This leaflet introduces the multidisciplinary team (MDT) for gynaecological cancers. The Gynaecological cancer team work at both Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne DGH. The team also works closely with the Sussex Cancer Centre in Brighton. You may be seen by the local Consultant or by the Tertiary Consultant from Brighton.

Gynaecological cancers include cancers of the womb, ovaries, cervix, vulva and vagina.

Who is in the multidisciplinary team?

The multidisciplinary team consists of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals who all have specialist training and experience in the diagnosis, care and treatment of gynaecological cancers. Listed below are some of the people in the team caring for you. Contact telephone numbers are listed on page 3.

Consultant surgeons

All perform general Gynaecological surgery.

Mr B Auld - Consultant Surgeon - Conquest Hospital - Lead Consultant for Multidisciplinary Team

Mr A Fish, Mr P Larsen-Disney, Ms S Kaushik - Consultant Surgeons, Brighton Cancer Centre

Mr M Khouzam - Associate Specialist - Eastbourne Hospital

Ms P Sinha - Consultant Surgeon - Conquest Hospital

Consultant oncologists - give radiotherapy/chemotherapy

Dr K Lankester - Eastbourne DGH and Brighton RSCH

Specialist nurses in gynaecological cancers

Mrs. Maggie Barrett – Eastbourne DGH and Conquest Hospital

Acute Oncology Nurse Practitioner

Rose Errington - Based cross-site Eastbourne DGH and Conquest Hospital

Consultant radiologists - review scans and x-rays

Dr R Guy – Consultant Radiologist - Conquest Hospital

Dr R Jorder – Consultant Radiologist - Conquest Hospital

Dr E Owens - Consultant radiologist - Eastbourne Hospital

Dr G Watson – Consultant radiologist - Eastbourne Hospital

Consultant Histopathologists - review tissue samples

Dr S Barnes - Based at Conquest Hospital

Dr M Jones - Based at Eastbourne DGH

How does the multidisciplinary team work?

The team works closely together to plan and deliver the most effective treatment and care for each individual patient. This is done in consultation with the patient and her family and occurs at each stage of care.

The multidisciplinary team meets weekly to review scans, x-rays and tissue samples. Every patient newly diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer is discussed, and an individualised plan of treatment and care formulated. This plan is then discussed with the patient and family.

Hospital treatment and investigations

Investigations are usually performed in the hospital closest to your home. Depending on your tumour type and location you may receive one, or a combination of treatments. These can include surgery, radiotherapy (strong x-rays), chemotherapy (drug treatment) or a treatment/procedure that will help with symptoms.

Minor gynaecological cancer surgery is carried out in the hospital nearest to your home. However, major surgery is carried out in Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton. If you need radiotherapy your treatment will be given in the Sussex Cancer Centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton.

Very occasionally, a patient may require referral to a London hospital for a highly specialised treatment. If this is the case the team looking after you will discuss this with you.

The role of your specialist nurse - also called your 'key worker'

Your nurse specialist is also known as your key worker because she takes a key role in coordinating your care with different members of the multidisciplinary team and ensures you have the advice and support you require. You will meet her around the time of diagnosis.

1. To give information and support

People can experience a wide range of emotions when the possibility of having cancer is mentioned and it can be devastating when the diagnosis is confirmed. It can be a frightening and unsettling time for patients and their families. Whatever you are feeling at present, it may help to talk with someone. Your nurse specialist is available to talk to you about your feelings, and to answer any questions you may have about your diagnosis or the proposed treatment.

2. To act as a link between different members of the MDT

There will be a number of people involved in your treatment and care and your nurse specialist can act as a link between them. She can explain their different roles and speak to them on your behalf if you wish. Your nurse specialist can also put you in touch with services that may be useful for you when you are at home.

There are also a number of support organisations that you may like to know about.

3. To provide support for your family if required

Your nurse specialist can provide support to you, your partner and your family. The people who love and care for you may need support with their own feelings about your illness or information as to how they can best support you. Encourage them to read this leaflet.

Your nurse specialist can make an appointment to see you if you wish or speak to you on the telephone. Contact details for the nurse specialist are detailed below.

Clinical trials

These are research studies which compare new or different treatments with existing treatments. If you are asked to join a clinical trial you are free to choose whether or not you take part. To help you to decide we will provide you with information on all other possible treatments including the benefits and disadvantages.

We hope these details are of help to you. If you have any worries or queries do not hesitate to contact your gynaecology nurse specialist.

Sources of information

Benefits Advice

Macmillan Cancer Support Tel: 0808 808 2020

Website: www.macmillan.org.uk Email: cancerline@macmillan.org.uk

Maggie Barrett – Specialist Nurse for Eastbourne and Conquest Hospitals

Tel: (01323) 435832 or call (01323) 417400 and ask the operator to page.

Email address: mbarrett2@nhs.net

Rose Errington – Acute Oncology Nurse Practitioner

Tel: (01323) 417400 ask for bleep 0669

Consultant secretaries

Mr Khouzam (01323) 417400 ext 3734

Mr Auld (01424) 755255 ext 6445

Dr Lankester (01323) 435813 (direct line)

Important information

Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. It is not definitive. We aim to make the information as up to date and accurate as possible, but please be warned that it is always subject to change. Please, therefore, always check specific advice on the procedure or any concerns you may have with your doctor.

Hand hygiene

In the interests of our patients the trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is a very important factor in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available throughout our hospitals at the patient bedside for staff to use and also at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

This information is available in alternative formats such as large print or electronically on request. Interpreters can also be booked. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offices, found in the main reception areas:

Conquest Hospital

Email: esh-tr.palsh@nhs.uk - Telephone: **01424 758090**

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Email: esh-tr.palse@nhs.uk - Telephone: **01323 435886**

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference:

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Consultant Gynaecologist: Mr Fish, Mr Auld, Dr K Lankester

Next review: July 2018

Responsible clinician: Mrs Maggie Barrett, Gynaecology Nurse Specialist