

Using an internal eye shield during radiotherapy treatment to the eyelid

This information sheet has been given to you to help answer some of the questions you may have about radiotherapy to your eyelid. You will also have been given an information leaflet about radiotherapy to your skin.

If you have any questions, or would like more advice, please ask a member of your treatment team. The team consists of radiographers, doctors and nurses who will help and support you throughout your treatment.

Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy uses radiation (high energy x-rays or similar rays) to treat cancer. It damages your body's cells within the treatment area, killing the cancer cells but allowing your normal cells to recover. Its side effects are usually in the area you are having treated. During your radiotherapy treatment to your eyelid we want to protect your eye from the radiation. To do this, we will use an internal eye shield each time you come for treatment.

What is an internal eye shield?

The eye shield is made of lead and shaped like a contact lens. It is inserted under either the upper or lower eyelid, or to cover the entire surface of the eye. It prevents the radiation from entering and damaging your eye.

How is the eye shield fitted?

Some local anaesthetic eye drops will be used to numb your eye so you cannot feel the eye shield. It may sting a bit when we put in the first drop but your eye will soon become numb. The radiographer will then place the lead eye shield over your eye. When the shield is in the correct place, the radiotherapy treatment machine will be positioned over your eyelid and the treatment can start.

How long will I wear the eye shield?

You will only need to wear the lead eye shield while you are having the treatment each day. When the radiotherapy has finished, the radiographer will gently remove the eye shield.

What happens after the treatment?

When we have completed the treatment and the eye shield has been removed, the radiographer will put two or three drops of an antibiotic into your treated eye. This will help to prevent infection. We will give you another sachet to take home with you – please store this in the fridge, and put two more drops into the eye six hours after treatment. You will need to wear an eye patch over the treated eye for about four hours to protect your eye from dust until the numbness wears off.

You must not drive after treatment or when wearing your eye patch.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your radiotherapy, please contact the **radiotherapy department** on **020 7188 7188** (enter extension **57542** or **57569**).

Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals offer a range of cancer-related information leaflets for patients and carers, available at www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/cancer-leaflets. For information leaflets on other conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets



Dimbleby Cancer Care provides cancer support services for Guy's and St Thomas'. We have a drop-in information area staffed by specialist nurses and offer complementary therapies, psychological support and benefits advice for patients and carers.

Dimbleby Cancer Care is located in the Welcome Village of the Cancer Centre at Guy's. **t:** 020 7188 5918 **e:** DimblebyCancerCare@gstt.nhs.uk

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the clinical nurse specialist or other member of staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, and to become a member:

t: 0800 731 0319 **e:** members@gstt.nhs.uk **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

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A list of sources is available on request

