

## Lung Cancer Team

# An information booklet about brachytherapy as a treatment for lung cancer

### What is brachytherapy?

Brachytherapy is high dose radiotherapy or (strong X-rays) given inside the lung airways. It is sometimes given as a treatment when a tumour is blocking or partly blocking the airway. It is given directly to the tumour site to minimise any damage to normal healthy cells.

### What is radiotherapy?

Radiotherapy is high energy X-rays that destroy cancer cells.

### How is the treatment given?

Having the treatment is similar to having a Bronchoscopy.

- The doctor will insert the bronchoscope tube through your nose into the airway to where the blockage is.
- The doctor will then pass a thin tube called a catheter and remove the bronchoscope leaving the catheter in place.
- A radioactive source is put into the catheter and this delivers the radiation directly to the blockage.
- The tubes are left in place for a few minutes to deliver the radiation treatment. During the treatment you should not feel any pain.
- You will be asked to lie still and try not to cough.
- If you feel uncomfortable you should tell the nurse or doctor.

### Admission to hospital

You will be admitted to the Oncology Ward (Ward 35) at University Hospital the day before your treatment.



## Patient Information

### On the day of treatment

- You will not be allowed to eat or drink for six hours before the treatment is started.
- You will be given some sedation to relax you and a local anaesthetic will be sprayed at the back of your throat just before the treatment starts.
- You will be allowed to eat and drink two hours after the treatment is complete.
- You will be discharged home later in the day but will not be allowed to drive for the remainder of that day.

### Possible side effects of the treatment

The side effects are often mild and usually temporary;

- Your throat may feel sore
- You may cough more initially
- You may cough up some blood
- You may feel some slight chest pain or discomfort

If you are concerned about any of these side effects, please speak to your Lung Cancer Nurse.

### Useful telephone numbers:

University Hospital Switchboard: 024 7696 4000

Lung Support Nurses: 024 7696 5505

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, we will do our best to meet your needs. Please contact 024 7696 5505.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

#### Document History

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