

Patient Information

Neuro-Oncology

Information for Temozolomide chemotherapy patients with suspected thrombocytopenia

Temozolomide is an oral chemotherapy which is used in the treatment of certain types of 'primary' brain tumour. Although generally well tolerated, it may cause thrombocytopenia. Thrombocytopenia occurs when there is a reduction in a type of blood cell known as platelets. Platelets are responsible for the clotting of blood and chemotherapy may reduce the number of platelets in your blood resulting in bleeding abnormalities.

To avoid unnecessary bleeding, please follow the advice below:

- Avoid trauma and ensure a safe environment
- Avoid invasive procedures, suppositories, enemas, rectal thermometers
- Use only an electric razor
- Avoid aspirin and aspirin based medications
- Avoid hot showers and baths
- Use a soft toothbrush

Your red emergency card has telephone numbers of who to contact and we ask you to keep the card with you and show it to your doctor if you are unwell so that those caring for you are aware that you are having chemotherapy treatment.

Please contact the hospital if you are suffering from any of the following symptoms as these may be an indication of thrombocytopenia:

- Easy bruising, nosebleeds, bleeding gums



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- Small, round flat dark red spots on the skin (petechiae)
- A change in mental status
- Blood in the stools or urine
- Headaches

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm:

- Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist: Tel 024 7696 5326
- The Oncology Ward: Tel 024 7696 5531
- Acute Oncology team: Tel 024 7696 5530 or 024 7696 4000 Bleep 1641

After 5.00pm and at weekends contact the Oncology Ward on 024 7696 5531.

You will be asked for the following information:

- Your name and address
- Name of Consultant
- Details of the problems you are experiencing
- How long since your last course of chemotherapy
- Which chemotherapy drug(s) you are taking

Following the discussion you may:

- Be given advice on the phone Or
- Be advised to attend the oncology department. Please come prepared to stay.

On arrival at the department you will be seen by a nurse or doctor. Tests may be carried out such as: Blood tests, temperature, pulse, blood pressure and any other tests which may be necessary.

You will then be advised whether you are to be admitted to the Ward and of the treatment you need to help with your symptoms.

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Your consultant oncologist will be informed of your hospital contact.

If you have any further queries or concerns please contact your Clinical Nurse Specialist or the Oncology Ward.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 8262 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

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