



Upper gastrointestinal cancer team

A patient's guide



Stent insertion

Stent insertion is offered at the Whittington Hospital. It involves a gastroscopy (where a thin, flexible tube called an endoscope is used to look inside the stomach) using x-ray guidance.

Contact

GI helpline:

020 7288 5692 or 07825 316 777

This is an answering machine service and calls are returned Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Gastroenterology clinical nurse specialist:
020 7272 3070.

Ask the operator for bleep 2893

Urgent problems

If you suddenly develop a problem (e.g. with swallowing) and cannot speak to your GP or community nurse, please contact us on the numbers above.

Outside of usual working hours (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) please contact your GP or come into our emergency department.

Further Information

Visit the Macmillan information centre (main entrance of The Whittington Hospital).

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or

whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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Multidisciplinary team

We are a multidisciplinary team (MDT) with expertise in upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancer. Upper GI cancers affect the oesophagus and stomach. An MDT is a group of doctors and other healthcare professionals who work together to discuss and manage an individual patient's care. Together we plan the treatment that's best for you.

Cancer diagnosis

We realise that receiving a cancer diagnosis can leave you feeling shocked, frightened or anxious. You probably also have lots of questions about your condition. We will do our best to meet your needs and respect your priorities and choices throughout your treatment.

What happens next?

Following your diagnosis of cancer you will have a clinic appointment a week later to discuss your treatment options and preferences with your specialist doctor.

The type of treatment available will depend on:

- The type of cancer
- Where it is in your upper intestinal tract
- Whether it is anywhere else in your body
- Your general health

Treatment options

Depending on an individual patient's circumstances, the types of treatment that we offer include:

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy (using drugs)
- Radiotherapy (using x-rays)
- Supportive care
- Stent insertion (an artificial tube inserted to keep internal tubes in the upper gastric tract open)

If you are offered a choice of treatments making a decision can be difficult. Carefully consider all of your options and make sure you have enough information about what the treatments involve and any side effects.

Feel free to discuss your options with any member of our MDT.

Clinical letters

You will be sent copies of the clinical letters sent to your GP unless you choose to opt out. Please let us know if you would prefer not to receive these letters.

Where does treatment take place?

Treatment can take place at The Whittington Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital or University College London Hospital (UCLH).

Surgery

Surgery takes place at UCLH. It involves part or all of the affected part of the stomach or oesophagus being removed.

The upper GI surgical team at UCLH is led by Mr Borzoueh Mohammadi.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is offered at The Whittington Hospital. It can be given as a combination of a drip or injection into a vein, along with chemotherapy in tablet form. You will be given this treatment as a day patient on our chemotherapy suite.

Treatment is led by Dr Pauline Leonard, consultant cancer specialist. Our chemotherapy nurse specialists are available on 020 7288 3192 to provide advice Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy takes place at UCLH. It involves directing x-rays at the area to be treated.

The radiotherapy team is led by Dr Glen Blackman, Consultant Clinical Oncologist. You may meet him, or members of his team, at your outpatient appointments at The Whittington Hospital or UCLH.