

WHAT IS IMRT?

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is the method by which your Radiation Therapy treatment will be delivered.

IMRT is delivered by a Linear Accelerator (Linac). It is a method of treatment planning and delivery that allows for a very precise and customised Radiation Therapy plan to be created for you.

The shape of the radiation beam coming from the treatment machine can be 'modulated' (adapted) to conform to the shape of the area that the Radiation Oncologist wants to treat.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF IMRT?

IMRT allows a high dose of radiation to be delivered to the target area (tumour site), while minimising the dose to the surrounding normal tissues. The ultimate

WHICH PATIENTS ARE TREATED USING IMRT?

IMRT is used in our department primarily to treat cancers of the prostate, rectum, lung, head and neck, oesophagus, brain and gynaecological tumours.

HOW IS THE INFORMATION OBTAINED TO CREATE MY IMRT PLAN?

At your Simulation appointment a CT scan of the area for treatment is done.

While many patients may have had such scans done during the diagnosis of their disease, this Simulation scan is done with you positioned in a very particular way. This allows our Radiation Oncologists and the Radiation Therapy Planning Team to effectively look inside your body at your internal anatomy and create a treatment plan that is unique to you.

In some instances, additional scans may also be performed to provide additional

WHEN WILL MY TREATMENT START?

IMRT is a highly complex way of delivering your treatment. As such, the planning stages can take a number of weeks.

To ensure that the best possible plan is produced for your specific situation, we will be unable to give you a start date. As soon as the plan is ready and approved by your Radiation Oncologist, you will be contacted by the Radiation Therapists to schedule your treatment start.

HOW LONG WILL EACH IMRT SESSION TAKE?

An IMRT session can take anywhere from 15 minutes to 25 minutes. You will be positioned on the bed in exactly the same position that you were in for the Simulation scan(s) and the Linac will move around you, stopping between 5 and 18 times to deliver the treatment. It is crucial that you lie still during each treatment to ensure that the treatment is delivered accurately.

aim of IMRT is to deliver a dose high enough to ensure tumour control whilst keeping the treatment side effects to a minimum.

information, such as MRI scans or PET scans.

Because of the precise nature of IMRT, the Radiation Therapists may use the Linac to take images (like x-rays) to check that you are in the exact same position each day.

followed exactly. If you are in anyway unsure about your preparation, please always ask a member of the team for clarification.

team whom you will meet on a daily basis.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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