



Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

MR Linac Treatment for Abdominal Cancer

Information for patients



This information leaflet outlines what to expect if you are having treatment on a magnetic resonance linear accelerator – MR Linac. In addition, before your first appointment, you will receive a phone call to explain any additional preparation needed for your appointments and to answer any questions.

Planning appointment

The appointment will last two to three hours and will involve an MRI scan in the MR Linac followed by a CT scan. You may be asked to fast (not eat or drink) prior to your planning appointment.

At this appointment:

1. A therapeutic radiographer will explain the process and ask you to fill in a safety questionnaire.
2. You will be asked to change into scrubs and remove any metal objects such as jewellery, hearing aids, glasses or dentures. Metal objects may be attracted to the MR Linac and can distort MR images.
3. You may have a temporary cannula (thin tube) inserted into your arm to inject a dye that can improve the quality of your scans.
4. You will be positioned for your MRI scan in the MR Linac. The therapeutic radiographer will place soft pads ('coils') over your abdomen. These pads will help the image quality of your scan.
5. The MRI scan will take about 30 minutes. You will be given breathing instructions through an intercom system to help minimise the movement of your internal organs.
6. When your MRI scan is complete, you will then have your CT scan in another room. The CT scan will take about 20 minutes. You will be in the same position as the MRI scan and be given the breathing instructions again.
7. After your scan, you can go home. If you had a dye injected, you should drink plenty of water to flush the dye from your body.

Your treatment

Your treatment will be individualised to you so not all of the following steps may be applicable. Your care team will explain what will happen at each appointment.

If you were asked to fast for your planning appointment then you will also need to do so before each treatment session. This is to ensure the position of your internal organs on treatment is consistent with your planning. If you are having treatment to your liver, you may have a temporary cannula inserted into your arm to inject a dye to help improve the quality of your scans.

You will be asked to do many of the same steps as at your planning scan, such as removing accessories, changing clothes, getting into position and having coils placed on your abdomen.

During each treatment session, you will have a new MRI scan which will be compared with your planning scans. We may make adjustments to your planned treatment based on the new MRI scan and the positioning of your body, tumour and internal organs.

Your treatment will take approximately 75 to 90 minutes. You will be asked to follow breathing instructions for around 20 to 25 minutes during your treatment using a computer screen to help you. You can go straight home after each session. A member of your MR linac team will call you 7 to 10 days after your treatment course has finished to see how you are feeling and answer any questions you may have.

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Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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