

Brachytherapy pathway



This page gives an overview of the steps involved during your brachytherapy treatment. These include the various appointments you will have before, during and after treatment.

1. Prostate HDR treatment

- **Urine flow study:** This test records the rate at which you pass urine and the amount you pass. It is carried out to assess your suitability for brachytherapy and can be done Lincoln, Boston or Louth.
- **Brachytherapy assessment at Lincoln.** This appointment is to see a radiographer so that the procedure can be explained, information leaflets given and medical history checked
- **HDR treatment** with overnight stay at Lincoln requiring General anaesthetic
- **CT scan** one week later to plan your external beam radiotherapy, and you will be reviewed by one of the brachytherapy team at Lincoln
- **External beam radiotherapy** starts two weeks after CT scan at Lincoln

2. Prostate LDR (seed brachytherapy) treatment

- **Urine flow study:** Lincoln, Boston or Louth
- **Brachytherapy assessment** at Lincoln

- **Volume study** : Day case at Lincoln. This procedure requires an ultrasound under general anaesthetic. These images provide a 3D model of the prostate which is then used to calculate the number of seeds required for treatment
- **Seed implant** four weeks later: overnight stay at Lincoln requiring General or spinal anaesthetic
- Four to six weeks later a **CT scan** and consultation with the oncologist at Lincoln

3. Cervix treatment

- **Brachytherapy assessment** at Lincoln whilst you are having your external beam radiotherapy
- You will have three or four **brachytherapy appointments**. Once a week on a Thursday. These will start towards the end of your external beam radiotherapy.
- You will require a **general or spinal anaesthetic** for the procedure, however after the procedure you are free to go home
- Six to eight weeks after your last brachytherapy treatment you will see the **consultant at follow up**

4. Endometrium/vagina treatment

With external beam radiotherapy:

- After you have completed external beam radiotherapy has finished you will have two brachytherapy appointments
- These are 15 minute appointments and you do not need an anaesthetic for the procedure, these are carried out in Lincoln
- Six to eight weeks after your last brachytherapy treatment you will see the consultant at follow up

Without external beam radiotherapy:

- You will have three brachytherapy appointments
- These are 15 minute appointments and you do not need an anaesthetic for the procedure, these are carried out in Lincoln
- Six to eight weeks after your last brachytherapy treatment you will see the consultant at follow up

5. Oesophagus treatment

- You will have an appointment at endoscopy in Lincoln for a naso-gastric tube to be inserted. This is a thin tube that is passed via the nose, down the oesophagus into the stomach.
- On the same day you will have a simulation/CT scan in the radiotherapy department at Lincoln to determine the area we need to treat.
- Brachytherapy treatment will follow lasting 15 minutes.
- Six to eight weeks after your last brachytherapy treatment you will see the consultant at follow up

6. Skin treatment

- You will have an appointment for the area to be looked at and marked up by the consultant
- An ultrasound will be done to determine the depth we need to treat, This is done at Lincoln
- Your skin treatment will start one week later, two treatments a week for three weeks.
- Six to eight weeks after your last brachytherapy treatment you will see the consultant at follow up