

Advice on Completion of Your Child's Radiotherapy Treatment



This leaflet is a **general guide** covering the main side effects your child may experience following radiotherapy. **It is important to remember, they will not experience all of these side effects. Radiotherapy only affects the area being treated.** You can find more detailed information about their treatment and side effects in the specific information given to you.

Radiotherapy continues to work for 10-14 days after your child's treatment has finished. During this time, you may find that any side effects experienced during treatment may become more noticeable or even slightly worse. Depending on the course of treatment, some children may not experience side effects until after radiotherapy has finished. Please note that this is quite normal. These side effects may continue for a few weeks, but should gradually settle.

Tiredness or sleepiness

Your child may become tired and sleepy during their course of radiotherapy or after treatment has finished. Some children might lose their appetite or show a lack of interest in games, TV or friends. It usually lasts a week or two and rarely requires treatment. It is important your child continues to be able to eat and drink enough during this period. If you are at all concerned about your child, please contact The Royal Hospital for Children and arrange to see your doctor there.

Skin

Your child's skin may become red and itchy. This will only be in the treated area. It is important that you **do not** apply any creams or lotions to this area unless we have given them to you. However soothing they may seem, they may interact with the treatment and cause the skin to become worse. Any skin reaction will settle a few weeks after treatment has finished.

Hair loss

Radiotherapy can cause hair loss in the area being treated. Hair will almost always grow back after treatment has ended, but it may be a different texture or colour than before.

Nausea and vomiting

Some children may feel sick and vomit, especially in the first few weeks of treatment. We usually give anti-sickness drugs that should be taken every day. These drugs can be changed if you think they are not working. The sickness should settle a few days after treatment has finished.

Reduction in the number of blood cells

Depending on the area being treated, radiotherapy can sometimes affect the bone marrow. This could lead to increased bruising and bleeding, risk of infection or anaemia. If you are at all concerned about your child, please contact Schiehallion day care.

Follow up

- Your child will be seen for follow up regularly at The Royal Hospital for Children.
- Your child will have scans at regular intervals.
- Your child will continue to be seen into adulthood.

Contacts

The Paediatric Oncology Outreach Nursing (POONs) Team

☎ 0141 452 4629

Schiehallion Daycare (ward 2B, RHC)

☎ 0141 452 4475/6

Schiehallion Ward (ward 2A, RHC)

☎ 0141 452 4450

Paediatric Specialist Radiographer

☎ 0141 301 9903

Paediatric Liaison Nurse

☎ 0141 301 7337 Page 15185

CLIC/Sargent Social Work Team at RHC

☎ 0141 452 6395

Ward 3A RHC

☎ 0141 452 4500

Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist for Teenagers and Young Adults with Cancer

☎ 0141 301 7616