

Metastases of Unknown Origin

Acute Oncology team

Patient Information Leaflet

You have been referred to the oncology team following the results of the investigations you have had.

Oncology means cancer.

The team consists of cancer specialist doctors and nurses who are here to provide you and your family with support and guidance throughout your cancer journey.

The investigations show that you have secondary cancer. This means that you have cancer that has spread from one part of the body, called the primary, to another part or parts of the body. This is referred to as metastatic cancer.

So that we can find out what type of cancer you have and where it may have come from we may need to carry out further investigations.

These could be further scans, such as a computerised tomography scan (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or a camera test, such as an endoscopy where the inside of your body can be examined. We may also want to obtain a biopsy which is where we take a sample of tissue.

The decision regarding which investigations you require will depend on where the cancer has been found in your body.

Before we carry out any further tests or investigations we will discuss this with you first. You may like to have someone from your family or a close friend with you when we have this discussion.

The results of all these tests may help us identify where your primary cancer site is. If a primary cancer site is found we will liaise with the site specific cancer team relevant to your cancer in order to create your treatment plan.

However, sometimes further tests may not be helpful and do not always tell us where the cancer has come from, and a consultant from our team will discuss this with you. This is known as Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP).

The Cancer of Unknown Primary Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

The Cancer of Unknown Primary MDT is made up of health professionals who specialise in treating and supporting people with cancer of unknown primary/metastases of unknown origin. The team meets once a week, on a Friday morning, to discuss cases of unknown primary cancer/metastases of unknown origin.

Your case will be discussed and your recent scans, investigations and blood results will be reviewed. A decision will be made on the most appropriate management plan and this will be discussed with you. You will then be referred to the right specialist for further treatment.

Medical Oncologist: Provides expertise in the treatment of cancer including chemotherapy.

Clinical Oncologist: Provides expertise in the treatment of cancer including chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Cancer of Unknown Primary Nurse Specialist: Offers specialist cancer information and support to patients and their families.

Radiologist: Performs radiological investigations such as CT scans and MRI scans. They will help identify areas of possible biopsy (tissue sampling).

Histopathologist: Examines biopsy samples to determine cancer and non cancers, and different types of cancer.

Palliative Care Team: Specialists in managing symptoms from the cancer and specialists in end of life care and future planning.

Cancer of Unknown Primary Nurse Specialist Key Worker Details:

Rachel Simpson / Louise Brown / Sarah Cotter

RLI: 01524 583087

FGH: 01229 491289

We are available Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00 to discuss any concerns.

If there is no response please leave a message on the answering machine and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you are feeling unwell and are on chemotherapy **please do not leave a message** - contact the 24 hour chemotherapy helpline immediately on the numbers below:

RLI: 01524 583085

FGH: 01229 491288

Leaflet Details

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Other formats

If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format, then please contact : 01539 795497.

Travelling to our hospitals

For the best way to plan your journey visit our website:

<http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 01539 795497.

Useful Contact Details

NHS 111 (for 24 hour urgent health advice): telephone 111

Your Information

If you would like to know how we use, share, disclose and secure your information and your rights of access to the information we hold about you, visit the Trust's website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01539 795497.

Evidence

Details of the evidence used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: Patient Information Officer at 01524 512476.

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact PALS on 01539 795497.

UHMBT is a no smoking Trust. Smoking is not permitted on any of the hospital sites. You can contact the NHS North Lancashire Stop Smoking services on the number below:

NHS Quit Squad - **0800 328 6297**

If you live in Cumbria, please call **0300 013 3000** to find a local pharmacy who are offers 1-2-1 support and nicotine replacement therapy.

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust: a great place to be cared for; a great place to work.