



# CyberKnife® treatment to the brain

Information for patients at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

This leaflet must be read with the main CyberKnife booklet PI72

## What will happen during planning?

Before you begin your CyberKnife treatment you will visit the radiotherapy department to have your treatment planned. You may be in the department for a few hours.

During this appointment you will need to have a mask called an 'immobilisation shell' made. This shell will hold you in the correct position, helping you to keep still, to ensure accuracy during treatment.

A radiographer will show you an example of what it looks like and explain how it is made.

Once your shell is made you will have a CT scan which will be used for planning your treatment.

You will be asked to lie in the same position as for your treatment. This position should be comfortable so you can keep still for between 30-60 minutes. For this reason it is important for you to say if your treatment position is not totally comfortable.

If you need an MRI scan before your treatment begins, it will be done before or after your planning appointment. This may involve an injection of a special dye.

You will receive a phone call with your treatment appointment dates and times.

## What are the possible side-effects from having CyberKnife treatment to the brain?

- Hair loss  
There is a possibility that you may lose some hair during the treatment. Your oncologist will advise you if this may happen.
- Mild headache
- Mild nausea
- Fatigue

**Please read about the general side-effects from having CyberKnife treatment on page 10 of the CyberKnife booklet (PI72).**

## Other help and support

People who have cancer often say that during their illness they experience a range of emotions. Many find it to be a stressful, anxious and confusing time.

If you would like further information about any aspect of cancer and its treatments, including the supportive services offered at the LJMC, please drop in to the centre or call the Helpline.

The staff at the LJMC work as part of the overall team caring for you and include healthcare professionals and trained volunteers. The centre provides a relaxed setting in which to talk and ask questions.

The LJMC is situated between the main Cancer Centre building and Gate 3 (White Hill).

 **Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre**  
*... supporting people affected by cancer...*

Services offered at the LJMC include:

- ① Drop-in centre
- ① Telephone helpline
- ① Benefits advice\*
- ① Complementary therapies\*
- ① Relaxation classes
- ① Counselling\*
- ① Look Good...Feel Better™ beauty workshops
- ① The Way Ahead headwear workshops
- ① Self-help courses

\* These services are only available to NHS patients under the care of an oncologist based at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

Mon-Fri: **9.30am–4.30pm**

Telephone Helpline: **020 3826 2555**

Website: **[www.ljmc.org](http://www.ljmc.org)**