

Treatment with mIBG

Why do I need mIBG treatment?

You will have already had some information from the Nuclear Medicine team and the doctor will have discussed with you the treatment best suited for your type of tumour.

What is mIBG treatment?

mIBG treatment is a radioactive substance that can be given as an injection. The tumour recognises the mIBG and will absorb it – this makes the radiation stick to the tumour.

How is mIBG treatment given?

On the day of treatment, we will insert a small plastic tube (cannula) into a vein in your arm. We will then give you two medicines through the cannula – one is a steroid which will prevent any pain or inflammation in your tumour. The other is an anti-sickness medicine which will prevent any nausea. We will then give the mIBG through the cannula using a syringe pump, which will take about 20 minutes. After the infusion, this will be disconnected.

Are there any side effects?

Unlike chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the side effects are minimal. You may feel tired, lethargic and experience some nausea (feeling sick). There are some effects on your blood count. Your clinician will ask you to have regular blood tests which are arranged through your GP surgery.

Will I be radioactive?

Yes, for a short while. You will need to stay in hospital. The radioactivity in the tumour will last for some time in order to produce the best treatment effect. We will give you some instructions for when you leave hospital.

Will I have to stay in hospital?

Yes, you will have to stay for about 7–10 days. To ensure that you are cared for safely we will ask you to stay in your single room until your doctor and the medical physics staff advise you can go home. This will be discussed on an individual basis as everybody has different home circumstances. For further information, please see The Royal Marsden booklet *Radionuclide therapy*.



Will there be any scans?

There will possibly be a series of scans, just like you have experienced for other investigations in nuclear medicine. These are to check that the medicine has gone to the tumour, and they will be carried out after your treatment.

How many treatments will I need?

mIBG treatment is usually given in two treatments, 8–10 weeks apart. This will be discussed on an individual basis.

Following treatment

Following the two treatments, your doctor will ask for you to have further CT and mIBG scans. We will arrange these for a date, place and time convenient to you.

Contact details

You should have been seen by a clinician and or a nurse before receiving this targeted radionuclide therapy. They will provide you with their individual contact details.

If you have any queries or further questions, please contact us:

Sutton: 020 8661 3286 / 3287

Chelsea: 020 7811 8541

Alternatively, please contact:

The Royal Marsden Macmillan Hotline: 020 8915 6899

(available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Should you require information in an alternative format, please contact The Royal Marsden Help Centre.

