

Lutetium-177 PSMA treatment

Why has the doctor prescribed Lutetium-177 PSMA treatment?

Your referring doctor will have discussed with you the treatment best suited for your prostate cancer. In addition, the Nuclear Medicine consultant will have explained what this treatment involves and how it will affect you.

What is Lutetium-177 PSMA treatment?

Lutetium-177 PSMA treatment is a radioactive substance that will be given as an injection. It is a mixture of PSMA (Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen) and a radioactive substance called lutetium. The tumour recognises the PSMA and absorbs it, which makes the radiation stick to the tumour and gives local radiation therapy directly to the tumour sites.

How is Lutetium-177 PSMA treatment given?

On the day of treatment you will have a small plastic tube (cannula) inserted into a vein in your arm. An infusion of saline will be given through the cannula which will take approximately one hour. After approximately 30 minutes, the infusion will be interrupted to give you the radioactive treatment through the same cannula. Then the remaining saline infusion will be given, and the cannula will then be removed. You will need to stay in hospital for a period of observation following the infusion and this will be discussed with you by your clinical team.

Are there any side effects?

Unlike chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the side effects are minimal. However, occasionally patients experience tiredness, pain in the tumour, or a dry mouth. If you experience any of these symptoms, you should contact your clinical team.

Will I be radioactive?

Yes, for a short while. The type of radiation used in this treatment means you will be safe to go home and be around other people once you have been checked by your doctor. The radioactivity in the tumour will last for some while in order to produce the best therapeutic effect, but it does not pose a risk to either you or anyone who you have contact with. We will give you some instructions to follow when you leave hospital.

Will I have to stay in hospital?

No. You will normally be in hospital for approximately 5-6 hours. After the treatment you will have a scan following the treatment to check that the medicine has gone to the tumour.



How many treatments will I need?

Lutetium-177 PSMA treatment is usually given in four to six treatments, six weeks apart. This will be discussed on an individual basis.

Following treatment

Following the treatments, your doctor may ask for you to have further scans. These will be arranged for a date, place and time convenient to you.

You will need to have a blood test every two weeks after each cycle to help us monitor your condition.

Further help and support

Macmillan Cancer Support

Support line: 0808 808 0000 (freephone)

Website www.macmillan.org.uk

Contact details

You should have been seen by a clinician and or a nurse prior to receiving Lutetium-177 PSMA. They will provide you with their contact details.

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

Sutton: 020 8661 3798/ 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.

