

Low-energy contact X-ray brachytherapy (the Papillon technique) for locally advanced rectal cancer

Information for the public

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This procedure can only be done as part of a research study. This is because there is not enough evidence to be sure how well it works or how safe it is.

Locally advanced rectal cancer affects the end part of the bowel (rectum) and nearby tissues. Completely removing it using surgery can be difficult or impossible. Some people cannot have surgery or choose not to have it.

In this procedure, an X-ray tube is inserted through the anus and placed in close contact with the cancer. It releases low-energy radiation into the cancer cells (brachytherapy). It may be done by itself or with other types of radiotherapy or chemotherapy. The aim is to kill the cancer cells while causing as little damage to surrounding healthy tissue as possible.

Your healthcare professional should talk to you about the research.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if the procedure does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

More information

- [NICE's information on interventional procedures guidance](#) explains what an interventional procedure is and how we assess it
- [NICE's information on interventional procedure recommendations](#) explains what only in research means
- The [NHS website](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

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