

Follow-up

You will have a follow up appointment at Lincoln County Hospital. If the treated area is still unhealed at this time, the doctor will advise you further.

If you have any questions, please ask the radiographers when you have your treatment.

If you have any queries when you are at home, phone 01522 572243 to speak to a brachytherapy radiographer.

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.



If you require this information in another language, large print, audio (CD or tape) or braille, please email the Patient Information team at patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk



Advice for care of your skin during skin brachytherapy

Radiotherapy Department
Lincoln County Hospital
01522 572243
www.ulh.nhs.uk

Aim of the leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to advise you how to look after your skin if you are having skin brachytherapy treatment.

Advice for care of your skin during treatment

It is best not to cover the area with a bandage or plaster.

If the area is bleeding or unsightly cover with a dry dressing.

Do not put sticking plaster on the treated area or stick the dressing tightly to the skin.

Try to leave the area uncovered for as much time as possible.

Do not cover the area with tight clothing, for example with close fitting tights or socks.

Try to keep the treated area dry. If it does get wet, do not worry, dry the area by patting gently with a soft towel.

Do not apply ointment, powder or lotions – unless staff at Lincoln County Hospital or your GP give these to you.

Early side effects

The treatment only affects the small area of skin being treated and will not make you feel unwell. By the end of your treatment the treated area will probably become red and itchy.

In the following week it will become sore and may bleed slightly. A scab may form. The scab will fall off and another may take its place. Healing will gradually take place of its own accord but it may take some time to heal completely.

Late side effects

The treated area will be paler than the surrounding skin. Small veins may appear in the treated area. On rare occasions, an ulcer may form and you may need a small operation to remove it.

After treatment is finished

Treat the skin in the same way as if you were having treatment until it is completely healed, even if this takes some time.

You can bathe or shower as normal but do not soak or rub the treated area and pat it dry with a soft towel.

Try not to expose the treated area to sunlight and always use a high factor sun cream on the treated area once it has healed.

The radiographer will explain the sort of skin reaction you may expect to see over the next few weeks. You may not notice any reaction straight away, but the treated area may become red and/or itchy by the end of your treatment. If necessary, you can take mild painkillers.

You may receive a visit from a district nurse when you have completed your treatment. They will give advice on skin care if needed.