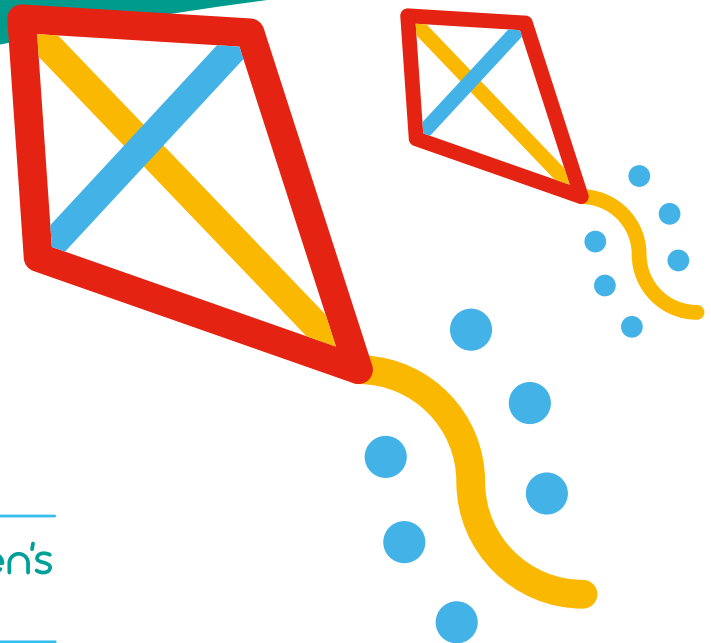


Yorkshire Regional Centre for
Paediatric & Adolescent Oncology and Haematology

General Anaesthetic for Radiotherapy

Information for children, young adults
and parents / carers



Leeds children's
hospital

caring about children

Radiotherapy:

Due to the accuracy of the radiotherapy treatment and in order to help keep a child / young person still, an anaesthetic may be required. There are two main types of anaesthetic:

1. Anaesthetic solution can be inserted into a cannula or portacath / hickman line.
2. Anaesthetic gas can be breathed in through a mask.



Who gives anaesthetics?

Anaesthetics are performed by doctors with special training, called anaesthetists. They will ask questions about your child's health and adapt the anaesthetic to their needs. Sometimes, it may be necessary to postpone a procedure if your child / young person is too unwell to have an anaesthetic.



What can go wrong?

Minor complications of anaesthesia may include pain on injection, a feeling of sickness or sore throat. Rarely (less than 1 in 20,000 cases), life-threatening reactions can occur. Anaesthetists are trained to respond to these events.

Before your child's general anaesthetic:

Monday to Friday:

Eating - Your child should not eat after 2:30 am on the day of the procedure taking place. **This includes sweets, chewing gum, fruit juices with bits in, milk or any drinks with milk in such as tea and overnight feeds.**

Drinking - Your child can drink clear fluids until 7:30 am. This includes water and dilute juice (no bits).

It is good for your child to drink until 1 hour before the anaesthetic; however, if your child has something to eat or drink after these times, you must inform a member of nursing staff immediately.

Some medications can be given as usual on the morning of the anaesthetic; however, ensure this has been discussed with the team beforehand.



Before radiotherapy

Your child will need to be reviewed by an anaesthetist or a nurse before the procedure. Please arrive promptly to your appointment to avoid delays. Please make sure you book in with reception on arrival.

If your child has been unwell, please inform a member of staff as they will need to be assessed to see if they are fit for the anaesthetic.

Your child may need a blood test before radiotherapy. This may be from their central line and we may have to wait for the result to come back before your child can receive their radiotherapy.

If your child is due chemotherapy on the same day, this will be done before or after the radiotherapy.

Going for radiotherapy treatment

Both parents may accompany your child to the appointment but only one parent will be allowed in the radiotherapy treatment room or planning scanner until they are asleep. If they have a favourite toy or comforter, they can take this with them.

Parents can then wait in the waiting room and will be called round when their child is in recovery.



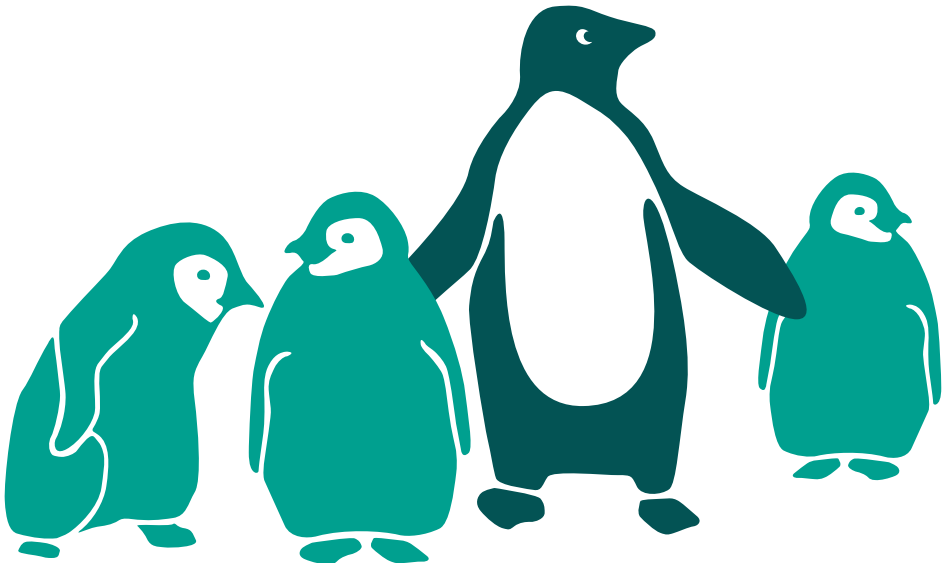
After radiotherapy

Your child's observations will be checked and they will be monitored during recovery. All patients need to have something to eat and drink before being allowed home. The radiotherapy unit can provide breakfast cereals but you are welcome to bring along some food if you prefer.

When at home

Once you are home, try to let your child have a quiet day with plenty to eat and drink.

If you are concerned about any side-effects your child / young person is experiencing following their anaesthetic and radiotherapy treatment, please contact the Paediatric Radiotherapy Team.



Contact details

Please contact the Paediatric Radiotherapy Team, Day Unit or wards if any of the following occur once you are at home:

- high or low temperature (38°C or above / or under 35.5°C);
- persistent vomiting;
- persistent headaches or dizziness; and
- advice on radiotherapy skin reactions / skin care.

If you have any other concerns, don't hesitate to contact us on:

Paediatric Radiotherapy Team

Tel: **0113 2067810 (answer machine)** or **2068619**

(Monday to Friday, 8.00 am - 6.00 pm)

Paediatric Oncology/ Haematology Outpatient Clinic

Tel: **0113 3927379**

(Monday to Friday, 8.00 am - 6.00 pm)

OUTSIDE OF THESE HOURS:

Ward 31

Tel: **0113 3927431**

Ward 32

Tel: **0113 3927432**

Ward 33

Tel: **0113 3927433**

Ward 52

Tel: **0113 3927452**

Ward 94

Tel: **0113 2068194**

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