



The Royal College of Radiologists

# Radiotherapy consent form for head and neck sarcoma

This form should only be used if the patient is over 16 years old and has capacity to give consent. If the patient does not legally have capacity please use an appropriate alternative consent form from your hospital.

## Patient details

Patient name:

---

Date of birth:

---

Patient unique identifier:

---

Name of hospital:

---

Responsible consultant oncologist or consultant therapeutic radiographer:

---

Special requirements: eg, transport, interpreter, assistance

---

## Details of radiotherapy

Radiotherapy type:

External beam radiotherapy

Site and side:

(Tick as appropriate)

Face

Scalp

Cystectomy Bed

Sinuses and nasal cavity

Parotid

Oral Cavity

Other (specify)

---

Left neck

Right neck

Left

Right

Aim of treatment:

(Tick as appropriate)

**Neo-adjuvant** – treatment given before surgery

**Adjuvant** – treatment given after surgery to reduce the risk of cancer coming back

**Definitive** – without surgery

**Disease control/palliative** – to improve your symptoms and/or help you live longer but not to cure your cancer

**You may have questions before starting, during or after your radiotherapy.**

Contact details are provided here for any further queries, concerns or if you would like to discuss your treatment further.

---

Patient name:

Patient unique identifier:

## Possible early or short-term side-effects

Start during radiotherapy or shortly after completing radiotherapy and usually resolve within two to six months of finishing radiotherapy. Frequencies are approximate.

**Expected**  
50%–100%



- Skin soreness, itching, blistering and colour changes in treatment area** – white/lighter skin: pink, red, darker than surrounding area; brown skin: maroon or darker than surrounding area; black skin: darker than surrounding area, yellow/purple/grey colour changes.
- Irritation in the lining of the nose or blocked nose**
- Sore throat**
- Oral ulceration**
- Loss and / or change of taste**
- Pain in the mouth and / or throat** which can cause problems with swallowing
- Red or watery eye**
- Hair thinning or loss in the treatment area**
- Tiredness**
- Anxiety, low mood, or poor sleep**

**Common**  
10%–50%



- Dry mouth**
- Thickened secretions**
- Mouth infections** including oral thrush
- Difficulty swallowing** which may require temporary placement of a feeding tube at the start of treatment or during treatment to support nutrition and hydration
- Nausea** – feeling sick
- Loss of appetite** which may lead to weight loss
- Temporary hearing loss and/or earache**
- Changes in / loss of sense of smell**
- Voice changes**
- Swelling of the voicebox**
- Risk of hospital admission**

**Less common**  
Less than 10%



- Vomiting**
- Chest infection** which may be due to food and/or secretions going down the windpipe
- Dehydration** as a result of reduced oral intake
- Lhermitte's sign** – temporary changes to the spinal cord presenting as a sudden electric shock like sensation on bending the neck, may occur three to six months after treatment

**Rare**  
Less than 1%



- Risk to life**

**Specific risks to you from your treatment**

I confirm that I have had the above side-effects explained.

Patient initials

Patient name:

Patient unique identifier:

## Possible late or long-term side-effects

May happen many months or years after radiotherapy and may be permanent.

Frequencies are approximate.

<p><b>Expected</b> 50%–100%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Permanent skin colour change in the treatment area</b> – usually lighter or darker for any skin tone</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dry mouth</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Altered taste or loss of taste</b> – with possibility of some recovery over 18 months</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Permanent dryness of nose</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nasal crusting</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Common</b> 10%–50%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lymphoedema</b> – swelling of the face, chin and/or neck caused by fluid (lymph) build up, which may cause discomfort</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Permanent skin texture changes in the treated area</b> – thicker or thinner skin</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Small visible blood vessels which look like spidery marks in the treatment area</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Permanent hair loss in and around the treatment area</b> – if hair starts to regrow it may be patchy</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hypothyroidism</b> – under-active thyroid gland, which may require you to take medication</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cataract</b> – Clouding in the lens of the eye, which may require surgery to correct</li></ul>
<p><b>Less common</b> Less than 10%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dry eye</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Visual changes</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nasal regurgitation</b> – food or fluid coming up into the nose whilst eating or drinking</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Loss of smell</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Changes in hearing which may include: hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing or unusual sounds in the ear) or a feeling of fullness in the ear</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Voice changes</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dental problems</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trismus</b> – painful or reduced opening of the mouth</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Osteoradionecrosis of the jaw</b> – damage to the jawbone</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Swallowing problems</b> – with risk of long-term/permanent feeding tube requirement</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Increased risk of stroke</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pituitary dysfunction</b> – your pituitary gland not producing enough hormones which may require you to take medication to replace the hormones</li></ul>
<p><b>Rare</b> Less than 1%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Permanent damage to brainstem and/or spinal cord</b> – which may cause change in sensation or weakness, and/or change in bowel/bladder function. Exceptionally rarely this may cause paralysis, permanent disability, or death.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Permanent damage to nerves to the face, arm or hand</b> – which may cause pain, numbness or tingling</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Increased risk of a different cancer in the treatment area</b></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Injury to the brain (radio-necrosis)</b> – a small area of irreversible change in the brain, which may be symptomatic or identified on scans. This may require treatment with steroids or rarely requires surgery.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Risk to life</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Specific risks to you from your treatment</b></p>	
<p>I confirm that I have had the above side-effects explained.</p>	
	<p>Patient initials <input type="text"/></p>

Patient name:

Patient unique identifier:

## Statement of health professional

(to be filled in by health professional with appropriate knowledge of proposed procedure)

- I have discussed what the treatment is likely to involve, the intended aims and side-effects of this treatment.
- I have also discussed the benefits and risks of any available alternative treatments including no treatment.
- I have discussed any particular concerns of this patient.

Patient information leaflet provided:  Yes /  No – Details: \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of consent form accepted by patient:  Yes /  No

Signature:

Date:

Name:

Job title:

## Statement of patient

- I have had the aims and possible side effects of treatment explained to me and the opportunity to discuss alternative treatment and I agree to the course of treatment described on this form.
- I understand that a guarantee cannot be given that a particular person will perform the radiotherapy. The person will, however, have appropriate expertise.
- I have been told about additional procedures which are necessary prior to treatment or may become necessary during my treatment. This may include permanent skin marks and photographs to help with treatment planning and identification.
- I agree that information collected during my treatment, including images and my health records may be used for education, audit and research. All information will be anonymised. I am aware I can withdraw consent at anytime.

### Tick if relevant

- I confirm that there is no risk that I could be pregnant.
- I understand that I should not become pregnant during treatment.

**Note:** if there is any possibility of you being pregnant you must tell your hospital doctor/health professional before your treatment as this can cause significant harm to an unborn fetus. Testosterone and other hormone treatments are not contraception.

- I understand that if I were to continue to smoke it could have a significant impact on the side-effects I experience and the efficacy of my treatment.

- I do not have a pacemaker and/or implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD).

or

- I have a pacemaker and/or implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) and I have had the risks associated with this explained to me.

Signature:

Patient name:

Date:

### Statement of:

- interpreter
- witness (where appropriate)

- I have interpreted the information contained in this form to the patient to the best of my ability and in a way in which I believe they can understand.

or

- I confirm that the patient is unable to sign but has indicated their consent.

Signature:

Name:

Date:

### Patient confirmation of consent

(To be signed prior to the start of radiotherapy)

I confirm that I have no further questions and wish to go ahead with treatment.

Patient initials

Date: