

# EURACARE

## PATIENT INFORMATION FORM

### **MICROWAVE TUMOUR ABLATION (MTA)**

#### **What is microwave tumour ablation?**

Microwave tumour ablation (MTA) is a minimally invasive technique used to treat cancer. Using fluoroscopy, ultrasounds, CT scans or MRIs to help guide a needle electrode into a cancerous tumour, high-frequency currents are passed through the electrode to create heat that destroys cancer cells.

#### **Why do you need a microwave tumour ablation?**

Other tests that you have already performed, would have shown that there are cancerous areas in your body. This treatment is best for you if your tumour is difficult to reach by surgery, if you have other medical conditions that make surgery risky and if there are small liver tumours that are spread out.

#### **Are there any risk?**

For lung tumours, there is a risk of having air in the space around the lungs but this can easily be taken care of by the team. On a few occasions patients cough out a small amount of blood but its normal. Occasionally, there is some bleeding and if not treated properly can lead to infection.

#### **Who has made the decision?**

The consultant in charge of your care and the interventional radiologist performing the procedure have discussed your case and feel that this is the best option. However, you will also have the opportunity for your opinion to be considered and if, after discussion with your doctors, you no longer want the procedure, you can decide against it.

#### **Are you required to make any special preparations?**

You will probably have had some blood tests performed beforehand to check that you do not have an increased risk of bleeding. You may be asked not to eat for four hours before the procedure, although you may still drink clear fluids such as water.

#### **Who will you see?**

A specially trained doctor called an interventional radiologist. They have special expertise in reading the images and using imaging to guide the needle to the abnormal area.

#### **Where will the procedure take place?**

In the radiology department – in the ultrasound room.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

You will be asked to remove all your clothes from the waist up and to lie on the examination couch and put on a hospital gown. Ablation is carried out in the CT scan room. It is done by using a local anaesthesia to numb the area of your body that is to be treated. The probe is put into the middle of the tumour. This produces heat to the tumour and destroys the cells. The procedure usually takes between one and three hours.

### **Will it hurt?**

When the local anaesthetic is injected, it will sting for a short while, but this soon wears off. It is likely you will have some pain in the part of your body where the treatment is being carried out. The doctor will prescribe painkillers for you to have after the procedure.

### **How long will it take?**

Every patient is different, and it is not always easy to predict; however, expect to be in the radiology department for between 1 hour and 3 hours.

### **What happens afterwards?**

You will be taken back to a ward. Nursing staff will carry out routine observations including pulse and blood pressure. You will generally stay in bed for a few hours up to a day, until you have recovered and are ready to go home. You will be allowed to drink water and after some time you will be given food to eat. The nurse will offer you pain relief to help you with the discomfort.

### **Finally**

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure.

### **Giving my consent (permission)**

The staff caring for you will ask your permission to perform the procedure. You will be asked to sign a consent form that says you have agreed to the procedure and that you understand the benefits, risks and alternatives. If there is anything you don't understand or you need more time to think about it, please tell the staff caring for you.