# Information for patients referred for investigations of a possible malignancy

Your GP has referred you for investigation for a potential cancer; this leaflet gives a brief explanation of which investigation you may need.

**Please be aware that we may need a few tests/ discussions to confirm/ exclude a diagnosis of cancer. You may not be seen in clinic until all investigations are complete.**

**During this time you may contact your consultant's secretary or the gynae CNS (if you have been given there contact details), who will try to answer any questions however no results information will be given over the phone.**

We appreciate this is an extremely worrying time for you and your family. We will aim for you to be seen as soon as we have all your results so that we can discuss your management plan. Treatment cannot be given without your consent and your decisions will be respected.

## How treatment is planned

Once all the investigations have been completed the results will be discussed within the multidisciplinary meetings (MDTs). You will then been given a hospital appointment to see a member of the specialist team, either the surgical team or oncology team for discussion and treatment plan.

### Ultrasound

Ultrasound uses high frequency soundwaves which are transmitted into the body through a small handheld probe. The sound waves send different signals back to the probe which are converted into a picture on a screen. The examination will take up to 30 minutes. The scan is performed with a probe on your tummy or vaginally (internal).

### Plain X-ray

The chest x-ray is the most commonly performed diagnostic x-ray examination. A chest x-ray produces images of the heart, lungs, airways, blood vessels and the bones of the spine and chest. An x-ray (radiograph) is a non-invasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

### Computerised Tomography (CT scan)

(CT) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body. The scan can take approximately 30 minutes and is painless. You might be asked to fast before the scan. Some exams require a special dye (contrast). The dye may be given before the test as a drink or through a vein in your hand or arm. The dye helps the radiologist see certain areas more clearly.

**CT helps to** diagnose many different conditions -such as cancer- and guides us to further tests or treatments which you may need: for example, CT scans can help to determine the location, size and shape of a tumour before having surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy, or allow a doctor to take a needle biopsy (where a small tissue sample is removed using a needle), before the sample is then sent to pathology.

CT's are also used for staging purpose's to determine if a tumour has spread.

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## Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

A MRI scan of the pelvis is a non-invasive method to create detailed pictures of the area between the hip bones. This part of the body is called the pelvic area. The pelvic area contains the reproductive organs; it includes the womb (uterus), cervix, ovaries, and fallopian tubes.

MRI uses powerful magnets and radio waves. The MRI scanner contains the magnet. A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan is a painless procedure that lasts 15 to 90 minutes, depending on the size of the area being scanned and the number of images being taken.

Some exams require a special dye (contrast). The dye is usually given before the test through a vein in your hand or forearm. The dye helps the radiologist see certain areas more clearly.

During the MRI, the person who operates the machine will watch you from another room. Several sets of images are usually needed, each taking 2 - 15 minutes. Depending on the type of equipment, the exam may take 1 hour or longer.

## You may need Ultrasound Guided drainage of abdominal fluid

This is usually done as an in-patient. Your medical team arranges for you to have a drain as you may have developed excess fluid in the abdomen (ascites), which has made you feel unwell. This fluid accumulates around the bowels and internal organs, causing your abdomen to swell (distend). This is often uncomfortable and makes moving and breathing more difficult. An ultrasound guided abdominal drain will relieve your symptoms. The drain is left in for several hours or days until all the fluid has been drained off.

Your procedure will be carried out using local anaesthetic to numb the area; the procedure usually takes 20 - 30 minutes. The abdominal wall will be punctured with a fine needle and a thin tube passed into the fluid. A drainage bag is connected to collect the fluid. Fluid will be drained off slowly over hours or days but gives an immediate improvement in 90% patients.

## Image guided biopsy

To further diagnose any abnormal tissue- we may need to perform a biopsy. This is where after local anaesthetic (numbing the area) a small sample of tissue can be taken with a needle, and further examined in the pathology lab.

You will have the test done in the scanning room under a local anaesthetic. Image guided biopsy uses a scan to guide where to put the needle. The procedure takes about 10 to 20 minutes.

You will be able to go home after 6 hours as long as you do not live alone. If you live alone then you will be admitted to hospital overnight, unless you can make arrangement for someone to stay with you.

## If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Gynae Nursing Team
Calderdale Royal Hospital

Via switchboard 01422 357171

www.cht.nhs.uk

## If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym fomacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
براہِ میہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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