



After your Gamma Knife treatment

After treatment

Radiosurgery does not leave you 'radioactive' in any way and you are free to resume contact with children and pregnant women after leaving the treatment room.

Over the next few days you may feel tired and you may feel some discomfort in the areas where the frame was fitted. It's possible that you may experience some 'tension headache' symptoms or a feeling of nausea but these should not last long. Mild painkillers may be taken if you have a headache or if the areas where the frame was attached are still a little sore.

The treatment does not usually cause any hair loss, although if the treatment area is located superficially, there may be some localised hair loss in this area. Should this occur, the hair generally begins to return over the next 3 months.

Long-term effects of radiosurgery differ depending upon the diagnosis and treatment method. Your consultant will have informed you of these before you leave the hospital.

Skin aftercare

It's possible that where the frame was fitted you may experience some fluid leaking over the next few hours. Small scabs should form over the area. Please do not use any creams or lotions on these scabs but leave them to come away naturally as they will help prevent any infection at the site. To help the scabs stay on for as long as possible, please refrain from washing your hair for the next 3-4 days.

If you do find the attachment sites becoming more painful, red or swollen, please contact your GP who can treat you with antibiotics.

Returning to your normal routine

As radiosurgery is a non-invasive procedure, you may return to your usual routine as soon as you feel fit. This can be the next day after treatment or you can wait a few days.

The same applies to returning to work, although most people choose to take a few days rest before going back.

Holidays

If you have a holiday booked, there is no reason why you can't fly the day after treatment. However, you should mention this to your consultant as in some cases there may be some internal swelling, in which case it is safer to wait a few days.

To prevent the possibility of infection of the frame attachment sites, you should avoid using swimming pools for at least a week after treatment.

Follow-up

Your consultant will have spoken to you about when he/she would like to see you again. They will also write to your GP and/or referring doctor, giving them details of your treatment and aftercare.

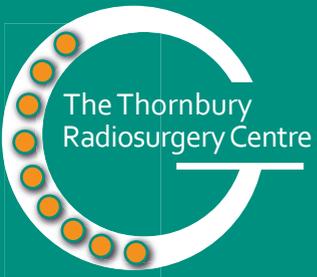
Your follow-up will probably involve an MRI scan, or even a number of different scans, over the next few years to assess the success of the treatment. As different tissues react at different speeds the scans may be after three months or even after one year.

It is quite possible that your treatment follow-up will continue over the next few months or even years, and you may undergo a number of routine scans to assess your reaction to the radiosurgery.

Problems after treatment

Although it is rare to have problems after radiosurgery, please use the contact details below if you have any specific issues post-treatment:

- Your treating consultant via BMI Thornbury Hospital. The Sister on Mappin Suite (Tel: +44 (0) 114 2674640) can contact your consultant who will then get in touch with you.
- The radiographer at the Gamma Knife Centre at BMI Thornbury (Tel: +44 (0) 114 3492 200, Email: info@thornburygammaknife.co.uk). The radiographer will aim to answer your question straightaway and if this is not possible, he/she will contact your consultant.
- Your GP or referring consultant. This is the best route if you are not sure if the problem is related.



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