

Intraoperative electron beam radiotherapy for locally advanced and locally recurrent colorectal cancer

Information for the public

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This procedure can only be done as part of a research study. This is because there is not enough evidence to be sure how well it works or how safe it is.

Your healthcare professional should talk to you about the research.

People with colorectal (bowel) cancer often have surgery to remove the tumour. If the tumour has spread to nearby tissues (locally advanced) or if a tumour that was treated has come back (locally recurrent), surgery sometimes cannot remove all of the cancer. In this procedure, electron beam radiation (radiotherapy) is delivered directly to the tumour during surgery (intraoperative). The aim is to stop the cancer from coming back and from spreading further.

The [NHS webpage on bowel cancer](#) may have information on your condition and treatment options.

Is this procedure right for me?

You should be included in [making decisions about your care](#).

Your healthcare professionals should explain the risks and benefits of this procedure and how it is done. They should discuss your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. They should offer you more information about the procedure. Your family or carers can be involved if you want or need them to be.

You will be asked to decide whether you agree (consent) to have the procedure. Find out more about [giving consent to treatment on the NHS website](#).

Some questions to think about

- How many appointments will I need?
- What are the possible benefits? How likely am I to get them?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- Will I have to stay in hospital?
- What happens if it does not work or something goes wrong?
- What happens if I do not want the procedure?
- Are other treatments available?

Information and support

- [NICE's information on HealthTech guidance](#) explains what HealthTech is and how we assess it.
- [NICE's information on HealthTech recommendations](#) explains what only in research means.

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Bowel Cancer UK](#), 020 7940 1760
- [Guts UK](#), 020 7486 0341

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

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