

# Understanding the Raypilot system

A guide for patients considering the Raypilot system whilst undergoing radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer

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Information for Patients

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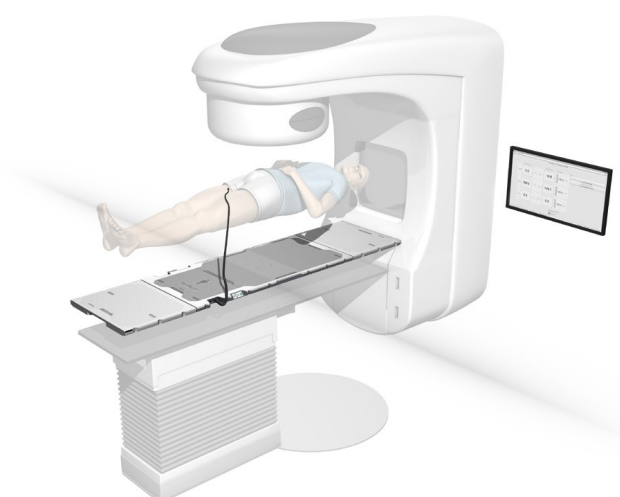
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## What is the Raypilot system?

Raypilot is a system that tracks the prostate in real time during radiotherapy treatment of prostate cancer. It is a new option for patients having **Stereotactic radiotherapy (SABR)** for localised prostate cancer at University Hospitals of Leicester. You do not have to have Raypilot in order to have SABR, but using Raypilot makes the treatment more accurate, this may lower side effects and possibly improve the chance of curing the prostate cancer.

Raypilot works by watching the prostate during treatment. If the prostate moves the system alerts the doctor straight away. This means the treatment is more precise and healthy tissue around the prostate is protected. It also allows higher dosage per session so fewer treatment sessions are needed.

- **Helps doctors aim the radiation to the prostate**
- **Reduces risk of damage to healthy tissue**
- **Allows fewer treatment sessions, while keeping it safe**



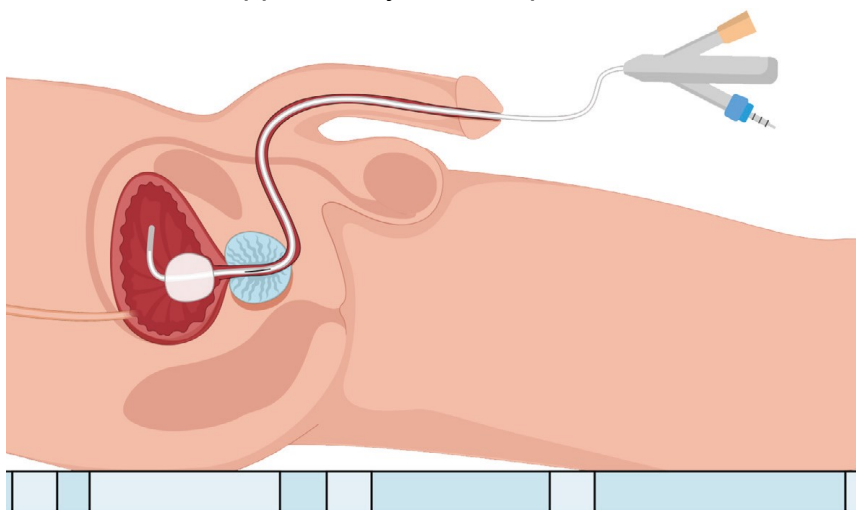
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## How is Raypilot used during treatment?

When the first radiation treatment is about to start the Raypilot Hypocath urinary catheter is put in place. It will stay in place for the whole course of the treatment and is removed after the last (5th) session, this means you will have it for about 10 days. Before each treatment session the bladder is emptied, then filled with a set amount of liquid. This helps make sure the bladder is in the same position each time.

You will then lie on the (radiotherapy) linac couch. A CT scan is taken to match the current prostate position against the treatment plan. The prostate is monitored in real time during set up and throughout the session. If the prostate moves outside the safe limits, the radiographer is alerted. The beam is stopped and you are repositioned before treatment continues.



The Raypilot Hypocath system.

## Are there any side effects of the Raypilot System?

There are no direct side effects but there are some risks you should be aware of. When a catheter is inserted some patients may experience short-term pain or notice a little bleeding. Also, you must not pull on the catheter, this could damage it or make it come out.

Sometimes patients may have on-going discomfort, this is usually managed with simple pain medicine from your radiotherapy team.

Rarely patients may get a urinary tract infection while the catheter is fitted. If this happens your team may give antibiotics and change the catheter.

Very rarely the Raypilot system cannot be used, if this happens your radiotherapy treatment will still go ahead with as little delay as possible so you can finish your treatment.

## Why I want more information?

The goal of radiotherapy aims to give the right amount of radiation to the tumour while protecting the healthy tissue. Prostate can move at any time and in any direction which makes it hard to target. The Raypilot system watches the prostate in real time and during the treatment. This helps the beam stay focused on the prostate and avoid nearby organs like the bladder or bowel. This means the whole prostate is treated correctly, the chance of cure is higher and the risk of side effects is lower.

Further information in the form of a patient story can be viewed by scanning the following QR code;



## Other useful sources of information

### **Prostate Cancer UK**

Telephone: 0800 074 8383

Website: [www.prostatecanceruk.org](http://www.prostatecanceruk.org)

### **Macmillan Cancer Support**

Telephone: 0808 808 0000

Website: [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

### **Prostaid**

Telephone: 0844 800 7801

Website: [info@prostaid.co.uk](mailto:info@prostaid.co.uk)



Contact details:

(All leaflets should include a contact number for patients if they have questions)

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Previous reference:

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