

Radiotherapy to the skin for Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC) or Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)

Cancer Services

Information for patients

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Introduction

During radiotherapy the skin in the treated area is exposed to radiation. The effect is similar to exposure to the sun.

As treatment progresses, your skin may redden and be drier than normal. It may then become moist and a scab may form.

The radiotherapy treatment affects only a small area of skin, and will not make you feel unwell.

The area to be treated will have been marked on your skin using a pen; these marks will be used each time you attend to line up the machine for your treatment. It is important that you do not wash these marks off until your course of treatment has finished.

You will be asked for permission to take a photograph of the area being treated. This is for future reference, so that the doctor will be able to see where you were treated.

If you need to wash your hair try to cover up the area that is being treated. Keep the water warm rather than hot and use baby shampoo. If the treated area is close to your hair line or on your scalp let your hair dry naturally rather than using a hair dryer.

Radiotherapy to areas that produce hair, such as the head, can cause hair loss in the treated area. Any hair loss is usually permanent.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Further advice

During treatment do not:

- use make-up or concealer in the area being treated.
- swim if you have visibly red or moist skin.
- use a sun bed (either during treatment or afterwards).

After treatment has finished your skin will look red and inflamed. The reaction can worsen even though you have finished treatment and it may look as if the treatment has made things worse rather than better.

The area will dry up and form a scab, which will come away. The scab will reform and peel away again. This can happen several times, but eventually it will leave healed new skin underneath. This can take up to six weeks.

Once your skin has settled be careful with the treated area in the sunshine. The treated skin may be more sensitive and we recommend you use a minimum of factor 30 sun cream.

As a result of treatment, the area may appear paler in colour than before and you may notice the skin feels slightly rougher to the touch. Once treatment has finished you can use a concealing cream if you wish.

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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