



Information for
patients and
carers

Discharge Advice

Following a Spinal Anaesthetic

Information for patients

You have been given this leaflet because you have received a spinal anaesthetic at the time of your operation.

Serious complications from these procedures are rare (1 in 10,000) and the anaesthetist will have discussed the risks with you beforehand. However, because the procedures involve injections close to the spine, a collection of pus or a blood clot can cause pressure on the spinal cord.

In the unlikely event that there is pressure on the spinal cord it is crucial to diagnose and treat it as quickly as possible. This must be done by specialist doctors to prevent delays in treatment and long lasting damage.

Post procedure assessment

You will be reviewed after your surgery and prior to discharge. This is most likely to be by the nursing and medical staff on the ward. Often you will also be seen by the anaesthetist who looked after you on the day of surgery. However, this is not always possible. This is to check whether you have a headache or any remaining numbness or weakness of your legs.

It is important to remember that some operations can cause altered sensation in the legs, therefore any changes experienced may be as a result of the surgery and not the spinal.

If you do have altered sensation, please do discuss it with your surgical team so that we can try to establish the reason.

After Discharge

When you go home it is important that you contact the ward if you experience any of the following signs/symptoms:

- Redness, pus, tenderness or pain at the spinal wound sit
- Feeling generally unwell despite the fact all seems to be well with the surgical wound
- High temperature, neck stiffness, headache
- Numbness and/or weakness in your legs/inability to weight bear
- Difficulty passing water / inability to control your bowel movements
- Severe headache that is worse when you are standing and less intense when you lie down or headache associated with ringing in ears, hearing change, deafness, or photophobia (unable to tolerate light)

Please contact the ward that you were discharged from immediately and they will advise you about returning to the hospital for assessment.

The hospital telephone number is 01772 716565.

During out of normal working hours there is an anaesthetist on call at Royal Preston Hospital for advice in an emergency. The on call out of hours GP doctor service should be contacted and they may liaise with the anaesthetist.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.rcoa.ac.uk/patient-information

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں ییہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے برا ے مہر یان پو ے یچہ ہی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه بأ حروف كبيره و بلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعده في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن تو فسير هذه المعلومات

Department: Anaesthesia

Division: Surgery

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