Going home after Gamma Knife Radiosurgery

Instructions for patients

Read this sheet to learn what to do when you go home after Gamma Knife Radiosurgery. If you also had an angiogram today, please read this sheet and the sheet called Femoral Angiogram.

You will have a follow up appointment at:

☐ Gamma Knife Centre
  Room: 3MC 448
  Date: ______________________________
  Time: ______________________________

  Call us if you need to change the date or time.
  Our number is 416-603-5445.
  You will be booked for an MRI appointment before this appointment.

☐ Telehealth
  Date: ______________________________
  Time: ______________________________

  They will call you at least 1 week before this date to confirm the time.
  If you do not hear from them, call us at 416-603-5445.
How do I care for my pin sites?

- For 1 to 2 days after you go home, keep the pin sites dry. Do not touch the holes.
- The day after you go home, you can take off any Band-Aids or tape strips that are on your forehead. You may put on new, dry Band-Aids.
- After 1 to 2 days, you can wash the pin sites. Clean them gently as the areas are healing.

You will not have any Band-Aids or tape on the back of your head. Do not worry. These should not bleed and will heal normally.

What if my pin sites are bleeding?

If there is any bleeding, put a piece of gauze on the pin site. Then put pressure on it for 5 minutes. This will stop the bleeding. You may find spots of blood on the pillow for about 1 week. A little blood on the dressing or Band Aids is normal.

What if my pin sites are leaking?

If your pin site leaks, you may clean it with some alcohol. Then put a Band-Aid on it.

What can I expect when I go home?

You may feel numb or tingling on part of your head. You may notice this today or tonight. It will get better in about 1 month.

You may have other side effects for about 1 week. You may:

- feel tired
- have headaches
- lose some hair (very rare)
- have nausea or vomiting
- have some swelling or bruises over your eyes from the local anesthetic

Take Tylenol or Ibuprofen (Advil) for your headache. Take Gravol for your nausea. You can use ice packs if you have some swelling or bruising.
Follow your doctor’s instructions for taking your medicines. It is important that if you had treatment today for Trigeminal Neuralgia you must stay on your medicines for now.

**What problems should I watch for?**

- side effects that are severe
- side effects that continue for more than 1 week
- any signs of infection such as:
  - fever and/or chills
  - yellow pus and/or pin sites that are getting more red and tender

**Who should I call if I have concerns?**

Call the Gamma Knife Centre during office hours at **416-603-5445**.

After office hours you can call one of these numbers:

- **416-340-3155** and ask for the Neurosurgeon on-call
- **416-946-2000** and ask for the Radiation Oncologist on-call
- your family doctor