

Discharge Instructions

Post Gamma Knife Radiosurgery



UHN

If you have had an **angiogram today as well, please refer to the femoral angiogram instructions and this information sheet.*

Problems to watch for:

You may experience side effects that are listed in your Gamma Knife patient pamphlet. These include:

- tiredness
- hair loss (very rarely)
- vomiting
- headaches
- nausea
- possibly some swelling over the eyes from the local anesthetic

Take Tylenol or Ibuprofen for your headache and Gravol for your nausea. Let us know if these symptoms persist.

Contact:

Call the Gamma Knife Centre if you have any concerns about your symptoms.

- Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m and 4:30 p.m. Telephone: **416-603-5445**
- On weekends and holidays, between 4:30 p.m and 8:30 a.m, call **416-340-3155** and ask for the Neurosurgeon on-call or **416-946-2000** and ask for the Radiation Oncologist on-call. The Radiation Therapist will call you within the next 48 hours to see how you are doing.

How to take care of your pin sites:

- Keep the pin sites dry for 24-48 hours.
- After 24-48 hours you may wash them, but cleanse gently as the areas are healing.
- If you have Band-Aids or steristrips (tape) on the forehead sites, they can be removed tomorrow.
- 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.
- If you have a gauze wrap and polysporin dressing on, it can come off tomorrow. If it falls off while you sleep, it can remain off. No further dressings or Band-Aids are needed.
- If there is any bleeding or oozing of blood from the pin sites, apply direct pressure with gauze for 5 minutes and this will stop the bleeding. A little blood on the dressing or Band-Aids is normal.
- If your pin site leaks please clean it with some alcohol and put a little bandaid or steristrip on it. It is not a sign of anything serious.

Notify the Gamma Knife Centre or your family doctor if you have any signs of infection:

- fever
- increasing redness or tenderness at the pin sites
- chills
- pus-like discharge from the sites.

Notify the Gamma Knife Centre immediately if you have clear drainage from the pin sites.

If you are on blood thinners you may restart them the day after treatment. Do not change any of your medications unless instructed to do so by your doctor.

The Gamma Knife Centre will notify you within a few weeks about a follow up appointment in the clinic in 3 months. If you have not heard from us within 3 weeks, call the Gamma Knife Centre at **416-603-5445**.

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Created: 02/2006

Form: D-5249



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