

Cyclophosphamide priming

Information for patients

This information leaflet answers some of the questions you may have about what to expect at your appointment for cyclophosphamide priming. If you have more questions at any time, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

What is cyclophosphamide priming?

Cyclophosphamide is the chemotherapy drug that we use to mobilise your stem cells and prime them for collection.

In order to collect your stem cells (harvest), we need to first 'mobilise' them. We do this by making them move from the bone marrow into the blood. This process of mobilising and stimulating the stem cells is known as 'cyclophosphamide priming'.

To get the stem cells to travel to the blood from the bone marrow, you will have cyclophosphamide followed by daily injections of a drug called GCSF.

Growth factors stimulate the bone marrow and increase the number of stem cells and white blood cells in the blood. The growth factor is usually given as an injection under the skin (subcutaneously).

Your blood will be tested to check the level of stem cells. Once there are enough stem cells in the blood, they will be collected.

Your Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Nurse Specialist team will provide you with more information on the procedure.

Please ensure you have been booked for a Coronavirus (COVID-19) test in the three days before your appointment. If this has not been arranged, please contact your clinical nurse specialist.

On the day of your appointment

On the day you are booked for your cyclophosphamide priming you should attend the Leukaemia UK Ambulatory UK Unit at King's College Hospital on the 2nd floor of the Cheyne Wing, through Davidson Ward.

Please attend the appointment at the time confirmed by the nurse.

This appointment is expected to take a minimum of four hours but may take longer.

During your visit you will be offered a snack box (sandwich, crisps, fruit and juice) and hot drinks. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch.

We will show you to your allocated chair and have your vital signs recorded (blood pressure, temperature, heart rate, and respiratory rate and oxygen levels).

Blood test

If you have a central line such as a 'PICC', we will use that. Otherwise, we will insert a peripheral cannula (thin plastic tube) at the time we take your bloods. We need to wait for your blood results before you can receive the cyclophosphamide. This can take up to two hours and sometimes longer.

You may visit the shop or the coffee shops while we are waiting for your blood results to come back.

The doctor will review your blood results when they are available and approve the treatment to start. A doctor may not see you on this visit.

Medication

Before you have the chemotherapy drug (cyclophosphamide) you will be given the following medications:

- Anti-sickness tablet (30 minutes before chemotherapy)
- Mesna intravenous infusion (15 minutes before chemotherapy)
 - this drug protects your bladder from the chemotherapy waste products
 - you will also be given this drug in tablet form to take at home

Chemotherapy infusion

We infuse your chemotherapy (cyclophosphamide) over one hour.

Below is an example of the possible timeline for the appointment. Please note, these times are examples only, this is not the time of your appointment.

8.00am	Vital signs recorded, bloods taken and cannula inserted
10.00am	Doctor reviews blood results and gives approval to proceed
10.05am	Anti-sickness tablet prior to chemotherapy
10.20am	Mesna intravenous infusion for 15 minutes
10.35am	Cyclophosphamide infusion (chemotherapy) for one hour
11.35am	Drain chemotherapy bag slowly until empty and then flush the line (can take 10 to 15 minutes)
11.50am	TTA (to take away) medications and G-CSF injections dispensed and explained, cannula removed and vital signs recorded
Midday	Discharged home

Who do I contact with queries and concerns?

Please contact the Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Nurse Specialist team on 020 3299 5781.

Sharing your information

We have teamed up with Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas'. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. The PALS office is located on the ground floor of the Hambleton Wing, near the main entrance on Bessemer Road - staff will be happy to direct you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

You can also contact us by using our online form at www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844.