

Information sheet for patients leaving the hospital following CT (computed tomography) guided lung ablation

Introduction

You should receive this sheet once you are considered ready to go home following your ablation procedure.

What should you expect or look out for over the next few days?

Pain

You may already be experiencing some pain in your chest close to where the needle was inserted. Some patients also experience some sharp pain when they take deep breaths in or cough. Make sure that you have told the doctors your symptoms before you leave hospital. Some discomfort following this procedure is to be expected, but if the pain gets worse after discharge you should seek medical advice (see contact details below).

Fever

A mild temperature is normal in the first few days following the procedure and is actually a good sign that the tumour cells have been killed by the procedure. If you experience a high temperature after one week then you should seek medical advice (see contact details below).

Shortness of breath

If you find that you have difficulty in breathing, above what you would normally experience, then you should seek medical advice (see contact details below).

Coughing up blood (haemoptysis)

You may have experienced this after the procedure or the day after. If this does not stop once home, is a large amount, or is a new symptom for you then please seek medical advice (see contact details below).

What follow up will I have?

Your doctor should have told you if they want to see you in a clinic or in the Interventional Radiology Unit (IRU) before your next CT scan, which will be organised for one month's time. Your surgeon or oncologist may also see you after the procedure. You will have a follow-up CT scan one month after the procedure - if you have not received an appointment by this time, call the number below.

Following the first scan further CT studies will be arranged approximately every 3 months for a year and 6 monthly thereafter. These can be linked to any other follow up scans that your surgeon or oncologist require.

Who should I contact in case of a problem or concern?

If you run into problems or have a query during office hours (Monday to Friday 9-5) then please contact the radiology secretaries on 01603 286330. Email: nnu-tr.RadiologySecretaries@nhs.uk

If you develop serious symptoms, such as increasing difficulty breathing or coughing up a large amount of blood please contact the emergency services (999) to bring you to the hospital. Please show them this information sheet.

