



Where we all  
make a difference



The Royal Liverpool  
and Broadgreen  
University Hospitals  
NHS Trust

## Patient information

# **Very Low Blood Pressure for Removal of a Tumour from inside the Eye ('Trap Door Operation')**

St Paul's Eye Department

You have a malignant melanoma of your eye. This tumour can be removed surgically through a trapdoor created in the wall of the eye. To perform this operation the anaesthetist must lower your blood pressure to a very low level. This is riskier than having a normal anaesthetic.

The following questions and answers should help you decide whether to have this operation. The alternative is to have the eye removed.

**After you have read this leaflet you will be able to discuss your anaesthetic further with your anaesthetist. You do not have to make up your mind until you are quite satisfied that you have all the information you require.**

### **Why does my blood pressure have to be lowered?**

Lowering the blood pressure prevents bleeding, which would damage your retina, possibly resulting in loss of sight.

### **How much will my blood pressure be lowered?**

To a third of your normal blood pressure. So if your normal systolic (upper) blood pressure is 150mmHg, it will be reduced to 50mmHg. However, the pressure is not lowered to less than 40mmHg even if your normal blood pressure is lower than 120mmHg.

### **For how long is the blood pressure lowered?**

The blood pressure is lowered only while the trap door is open, usually between 45 and 120 minutes.

## **What are the risks?**

You may suffer a heart attack, brain damage or spinal cord damage, which can be fatal or which can cause permanent disablement. These complications are very rare.

## **How likely are these to happen to me?**

So far, in over 500 of these procedures, there have been no serious complications. We estimate that the risk of serious complications from having your blood pressure lowered is about 0.5% (or one in 200).

## **Is there anything you can do to prevent complications?**

Your anaesthetist and his or her team do everything possible to minimise the risk of complications. Your blood pressure is monitored continuously using a device placed in an artery. This means that we can follow your blood pressure very precisely. We also monitor the heart and brain to try to detect immediately any lack of oxygen. At present, we cannot monitor the spinal cord.

The technique used to lower your blood pressure is carefully designed to keep the blood flow as normal as possible in spite of the low pressure. The anaesthetic used is designed to protect the vital organs during low pressure.

## **What happens if the monitoring suggests that something is wrong?**

If your anaesthetist is at all worried about your condition, your blood pressure will immediately be brought back to normal. However, this may result in bleeding into the eye and loss of vision.

## **At what stage is the period of high risk over?**

You are no longer at risk once you have woken from the anaesthetic

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further Information**

### **Department of Anaesthetics**

**Tel: 0151 706 2000 ext. 3203**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2000 Ext 3203**

### **Sister Gillian Hebbar**

**Clinical Nurse Specialist – your key worker for Ocular  
Oncology**

**St Paul's Eye Unit**

**Tel: 0151 706 3976**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3976**

**Email: [gillian.hebbar@rlbuht.nhs.uk](mailto:gillian.hebbar@rlbuht.nhs.uk)**

**Author: St Paul's Eye Department**

**Review date: November 2021**

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل ائتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونياً.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 ( Moon ) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری پیوندیدار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پامند کر اون، ننگر داوا بکرنیت له فورماتمکانی تر دا بریتی له زمانمکانی تر، نیز ی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گموره، شریتی دنگگ، هیل ی موون و نملیکترونیکی همیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音頻、盲文、穆恩体 ( Moon ) 盲文和电子格式，敬請索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.