

Breast Surgery - Total Mastectomy NEC - Total Excision of Breast (partial, total and wired guided)

Introduction

The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS' ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would like and that it is not always possible to say when treatment will take place. This document provides our patients with information on how you can support yourself while waiting for treatment at the hospital. The guidance has been written by the clinicians who are responsible for your care.

At the West Herts Breast Care Unit we offer a full range of procedures for symptomatic breast disease and for patients from breast screening, including all standard cancer operations and diagnostic procedures.

The majority of our operations are performed at St Albans City Hospital, which is an elective surgery site and so has the advantage of avoiding the busy acute hospital wards. However, a minority of our patients will need a greater degree of medical backup and need to have their operations performed in an acute hospital, currently Watford General Hospital.

We also offer a full range of breast reconstruction techniques, apart from major abdominal flap procedures which are done at the Royal Free Hospital in conjunction with the plastic surgeons.

However, if the sampled node contains cancer, patient may require a second operation axillary clearance to remove all their lymph nodes. Occasionally, we can get the lymph nodes analysed by a pathologist during the operation and proceed immediately to an axillary clearance if the pathologist finds cancer in the nodes. This facility is only available at our Watford General Hospital operating lists.

Guidance for Patients

The website below can provide you with support and information whilst you are waiting for your treatment:

<https://breastcancernow.org/information-support/publication/treating-breast-cancer-bcc4>

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If your health is deteriorating, please contact Breast Care Nurses on 01727 897562

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