

THORACIC SURGERY – Thoracoscopic video-assisted approach to thoracic cavity (VATS)

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 all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Please read the following information in conjunction with our staying healthy guidance.

Guidance for Patients

As a general rule, if the reason for your operation is a concern that your lesion can potentially be of a malignant origin, the procedure should be offered to you within a month of attending the Thoracic Surgery outpatient clinic. Even during the difficult past 24 months we have managed to maintain the UHCW Thoracic Surgery Service within reasonable waiting times.

Unfortunately if you have a non-malignant condition, you may have a longer wait for surgery. Your surgeon will be able to give you an approximate time scale for surgery depending on your individual condition. We understand that the effect of your diseases can deteriorate and it is important to let the team know of deterioration of symptoms while on the waiting list. Please use the contacts below to inform us of any changes.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you feel that you are developing an acute respiratory tract infection (increased shortness of breath, fevers, purulent sputum) then please see your GP for advice on acute management of this. Patients with respiratory conditions are at higher risk of deteriorating rapidly from chest infections. Your GP can inform us of any changes in your condition.

If your condition is creating pain or discomfort and the symptoms worsen please contact us so that we can review your waiting time and/or re-assess you in the Outpatient Clinic.

Contact Us

Secretary to Mr De La Vina; Mr Hernandez and Mr Martin-Ucar

02476 965681 or 02476 965560