

QUADRAMET (SAMARIUM-153) INJECTION

Patient Information about radiation safety

WHAT IS QUADRAMET?

Quadramet is a radioactive drug which is used to relieve the pain caused by bone tumour. It is not a cure for cancer. Quadramet is given by injection and rapidly concentrates in bone affected by cancer. The radioactivity decreases naturally over a few weeks.

ARE THERE ANY RADIATION SIDE EFFECTS FROM THIS PROCEDURE?

- Any radiation treatment procedure carries some risk. Your doctor recommends this procedure since the treatment benefits are thought to outweigh the risks.
- Prior to the treatment you would have had a bone scan to assess the extent of tumour spread to bones. There is a small chance of a short-lasting increase in bone pain following the injection.
- Since the treatment can affect your blood counts, you will have had a pre-treatment blood test to establish your baseline blood count. Your blood count may be monitored again a few weeks after treatment.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN?

There is no evidence on the safety and effectiveness of Quadramet in pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. This treatment is not given to pregnant women as it may cause harm to a foetus. As the drug has a potential to harm breast-fed infants, it is not used for lactating patients.

If there is a possibility you might become pregnant at any time after the injection, there may be other important health issues to consider which you should discuss further with your doctor.

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE TREATMENT DAY?

- You would have had a Consultation with the Nuclear Medicine Physician on a separate day prior to the treatment.
- On the treatment day, you should come to the Department of Nuclear Medicine and PET at Liverpool Hospital. The physician will again explain the procedure to you.
- You need to be well hydrated and you will be asked to drink at least 2 cups of water before you are given the Quadramet injection.
- You will also be given fluids to drink after the injection. You should empty your bladder several times before you are discharged from the Department.

DO YOU NEED TO STAY IN THE HOSPITAL?

Usually this treatment is done on an outpatient basis. If you are treated while you are in hospital for other reasons, children and pregnant women should not visit during your stay.

You should follow these precautions for one week after the treatment:

1. Do not share your bed with a pregnant woman or a child.
2. Use good personal hygiene – after using the toilet, wash hands carefully and flush the toilet twice.
3. Avoid prolonged, close contact with children and young adults.

If you need emergency care in the next two weeks, please tell the doctor you have had a Quadramet injection.