

Health Professional Fact Sheet

Breast cancer screening for women who received mantle radiation for Hodgkin lymphoma

Mantle field radiotherapy (or mantle radiation) treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma is a known risk factor for secondary breast cancer. The estimated actual incidence approaches 35% by 40 years of age¹. This increased risk begins about 10 years after treatment.

BC Cancer recommends that all women who received mantle radiation for Hodgkin lymphoma adhere to the following breast cancer screening routine:

- Annual breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) starting at age 30 or 10 years after radiation treatment until the age of 65.
- Annual screening mammogram starting at age 30 or 10 years after radiation treatment until the age of 74.

Letters have been sent to former Hodgkin's lymphoma patients who have had mantle radiation, to invite them to participate in this higher level of screening so that any potential secondary breast cancer can be found early when it can be most successfully treated. For more information on these breast screening recommendations or to discuss your patient's treatment history with a health care professional from BC Cancer, please call us at: 604-877-6292 or Toll Free 1-800-663-3333, ext 676292.

1. How do I book my high risk patient for the recommended screening tests?

To refer a patient for a breast MRI, please contact the nearest MRI center (list enclosed). You will need to refer your patients annually. Please indicate on the requisition that the "patient has been treated for Hodgkin lymphoma with mantle radiation".

Your patient can book a screening mammogram appointment directly with the Breast Screening Program by calling 1-800-663-9203. After the initial test, we will recall the patient annually.

2. Have you contacted my patient directly about her increased risk?

Yes. We are contacting all of the women in our database who received mantle field radiotherapy treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma. These women recently received a letter notifying them of their increased risk of developing breast cancer, as well as the above screening recommendations. We are also recommending that women speak with their primary care providers about their increased risk.

3. The individual you identified in the letter is no longer my patient. Will you attempt to contact her current doctor?

Because the contact information we have may be outdated (it was collected when the patient was receiving mantle radiation) we may not be able to contact the patient or her current primary care provider. In order to increase awareness of the above screening recommendations, we will be promoting these recommendations to General Practitioners (GPs) through various channels.

4. I have other patients who received chest radiation for a childhood cancer. Should I refer them for a screening breast MRI?

The recommendations are for women who were treated for Hodgkin lymphoma with mantle radiation. Accumulating evidence suggests that women who have received this “mantle field radiotherapy” treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma face as high as a 40 per cent risk of developing breast cancer later in life, typically 20 to 30 years later. Research to identify other groups of patients at higher risk of secondary cancer is ongoing and will result in appropriate recommendations as justified by the evidence.

5. What if my patient is unable to undergo breast MRI?

A radiologist at the local MRI center where the patient would be referred will be able to assess MRI eligibility and recommend appropriate follow up for your patient.

6. Where can I get more information on mantle radiation and my patient’s increased risk?

For more information or to discuss your treatment history with a health care professional from BC Cancer, please call us at: 604-877-6292 or Toll Free 1-800-663-3333, ext 676292.

¹Bhatia, Samita et al. Breast Cancer and Other Second Neoplasms after Childhood Hodgkin’s Disease. New England Journal of Medicine 1996; 334(12): 745-751.

THE FOLLOWING HOSPITALS HAVE BREAST MRI CLINICS

Please select the clinic that is most convenient for your patient to travel to and contact them directly to arrange an exam.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> BC Cancer
600 W 10th Ave,
Vancouver, B.C.
Fax: 604.877.6148 | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Columbian Hospital
330 East Columbia Street
New Westminster, B.C.
Phone: 604.520.4640
Fax: 604.520.4120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria General Hospital
1 Hospital Way
Victoria, BC
Phone: 250.727.4212 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelowna General Hospital
2268 Pandosy Street
Kelowna, B.C.
Phone: 250.862.4000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
9750 140th Street
Surrey, B.C.
Phone: 604.588.3308 ext 763925
Fax: 604.582.376612 | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Inland Hospital
311 Columbia Street
Kamloops, B.C.
Phone: 250-314-2400
Fax: 250-314-2326 |