



First dedicated UK support website launched today for patients treated with life-extending liver tumour radiotherapy

17 September 2014: My SIRT Story, launched today, is the first dedicated UK patient website to provide information and support to patients, and their loved ones, about the life-extending liver cancer treatment, Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT).

My SIRT Story has been developed in response to the recent decision by the NHS to make SIRT available to eligible patients in England and Scotland with liver cancer that has spread from the bowel or arisen in the bile ducts. SIRT is the first treatment to be funded under the new NHS 'Commissioning through Evaluation' policy that is hoped will improve the availability of cutting-edge treatments.

My SIRT Story is a resource from the SIRT UK Network of clinicians and scientists that aims to share best practice, clinical experiences and patient information. It has been supported by Sirtex Medical and has been reviewed by the patient charity Beating Bowel Cancer to ensure that it provides patient-friendly information.

Professor Ricky Sharma, Honorary Consultant in Clinical Oncology at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and Chair of the SIRT UK Network said, "My SIRT Story is a wonderful resource for patients and their relatives. It can be hard to take in all the information and to ask questions in a hospital consultation, especially when it is for a highly specialist cancer treatment like SIRT. This website is a great place for patients to find information and support in their own time. I am sure they will feel reassured by the stories and practical information offered."

My SIRT Story is an up-to-date patient resource that tells the stories of real people with liver cancer and their experiences with SIRT. The content has been developed to be as engaging as possible and contains many bite-sized videos to help explain SIRT in an easily understandable way. It includes patient leaflets; patient stories; patient videos and a before, during and after procedure video that shows an actual SIRT procedure in progress.

"Receiving a cancer diagnosis is devastating, which is why it's so important for people to have access to all the information they need to help them make the right choices when it comes to treatment", said Mark Flanagan, Chief Executive from the charity Beating Bowel Cancer. "Hearing about other people's experiences can provide a lifeline of reassurance at a time when there are so many difficult decisions for someone to make about their treatment"

The SIRT procedure is a form of radiotherapy in which millions of tiny radioactive beads are injected into the artery that supplies the cancer, direct into the site of the liver. SIRT using SIR-Spheres microspheres (Yttrium-90 resin microspheres) has been shown to significantly improve survival by about five months in patients where chemotherapy is no longer working to treat bowel cancer that has spread to the liver.^{1,2} In some cases, SIR-Spheres microspheres can reduce the size of tumours so much that they can be surgically removed.³⁻¹⁷

Treatment with SIRT will be available to eligible patients by referral from local specialist consultants at NHS hospitals in Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leeds, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford and Southampton. At present, SIRT will only be funded for patients where routine approaches, such as surgery and chemotherapy, have been unsuccessful or have caused unacceptable side effects. Patients who live in Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as those that do not fulfil the NHS criteria, can access the treatment privately or their hospital consultant may be able to make an application for its use on the NHS as an individual funding request.

To access the website, please visit www.mysirtstory.org.uk.

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For more information, please contact:

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About the SIRT UK Network

The SIRT UK Network (SUN) is a web-based network of motivated clinicians and scientists (clinical oncology, medical oncology, interventional radiology, imaging, nuclear medicine, medical physics, hepatology, pathology and surgery). The aim of SUN is to share best practice, clinical experiences, patient information and to organise SIRT masterclasses and workshops. The network has an academic focus, and is independent of commissioning and service considerations. For more information visit www.sirt.org.uk/index.htm.

NHS centres that are approved to use SIRT

- **North England:** Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
- **South England:** Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust
- **Midlands and East of England:** University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- **London:** King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
- **Scotland:** The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

¹ Seidensticker R *et al.* *Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol* 2012; 35: 1066–1073.

² Bester L *et al.* *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2012; 23: 96–105.

³ Cosimelli M *et al.* *Br J Cancer* 2010; 103: 324–331.

⁴ Van den Eynde *et al.* *Clin Nucl Med* 2008; 33: 697–699.

⁵ Whitney *et al.* *J Surg Res* 2011; 166: 236–240.

⁶ Hoffmann *et al.* *Eur J Radiol* 2010; 74: 199–205.

⁷ Sangro *et al.* *ASCO GI* 2010; Abs 250.

⁸ Chua *et al.* *Anticancer Res* 2010; 30: 3005–3007.

⁹ Lim *et al.* *BMC Cancer* 2005; 5: 132.

¹⁰ Wasan *et al.* *WCGIC* 2010; Abs P-183.

¹¹ Siddiqi *et al.* *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2009; 20: 664–669.

¹² Pini *et al.* *Tumori*. 2010; 96: 157–159.

¹³ Hadaki M *et al.* *BMJ Case Reports* 2011;

DOI:10.1136/bcr.01.2011.3793.

¹⁴ Gray *et al.* *Ann Oncol* 2001; 12: 1711–1720.

¹⁵ Sharma R *et al.* *J Clin Oncol* 2007; 25: 1099–1106.

¹⁶ Iñarrairaegui M *et al.* *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2010;

77: 1441–1448.

¹⁷ Lau W *et al.* *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 1998; 40: 583–592.