Cambridge Skull Base Unit

Useful information and contacts

Information for new and existing patients

The aim of this leaflet is to provide you with an overview of the things you might need to know about the Cambridge Skull Base Unit.

Who are we?

We are a national centre for the assessment and treatment of skull base tumours. We have a dedicated team who deal with all aspects of assessment, surgery, radiotherapy and follow-on care.

When is the department open?

Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00

We do not operate a drop-in service. Please contact us first if you are experiencing problems. If you are experiencing urgent problems please contact your GP for advice or in an emergency, please use your local Emergency Department.

Our website address is [http://www.cuh.org.uk/skull-base-service](http://www.cuh.org.uk/skull-base-service)

What happens in clinic?

Our consultants run the service that we provide. A team meeting is held before clinic, this is where we will discuss your case and every effort will be made for you to be seen by the most relevant consultant but with other members of the team present. We recommend that you bring someone with you, as you may feel anxious or find that there is a lot of information to understand. Please write down any questions that you may have and bring them with you to your appointment.

Who is in the team?

The following people are in the team:

- Mr Patrick Axon, Consultant Skull Base Surgeon
- Mr Neil Donnelly, Consultant Skull Base Surgeon
- Mr James Tysome, Consultant Skull Base Surgeon
- Professor Manohar Bance, Professor of Otology and Skull Base Surgery
- Mr Rishi Sharma, Consultant Rhinologist and ENT Surgeon
- Mr Robert Macfarlane, Consultant Neurosurgeon
- Mr Richard Mannion, Consultant Neurosurgeon
- Mr Adel Helmy, Consultant Neurosurgeon
- Dr Sarah Jefferies, Consultant Oncologist
- Dr Huiqi Yang, Consultant Oncologist
- Mr Richard Price, Consultant Plastic Surgeon
- Kate Burton, Consultant Radiographer in Neuro-Oncology
Getting in touch

- Cambridge Skull Base Unit
- Clinic 10, Box 48
- Addenbrooke’s Hospital
- Hills Road
- Cambridge
- CB2 0QQ
- Clinic 10: 01223 217588
- Email: skullbase@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Who do I contact?

On visiting the clinic you will be given the name of the appropriate person to contact. This is a list of all the contact numbers, but only some will be applicable to your care. Most telephones have an answer machine that is checked regularly throughout the day. Messages for non-urgent queries can be left.

Secretary to Mr Axon and Mr Tysome 01223 256051
Secretary to Mr Donnelly and Professor Bance 01223 586638
Secretary to Mr Sharma 01223 250755
Secretary to Mr Macfarlane 01223 254693
Secretary to Mr Mannion 01223 586858
Secretary to Mr Helmy 01223 256694
Secretary to Dr Jefferies and Dr Yang 01223 586705
Secretary to Mr Price 01223 256080
Juliette Buttimore/Nicola Gamazo 01223 348672
Email: juliette.buttimore@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
Email: nicola.gamazo@addenbrookes.nhs.uk
Indu Lawes 01223 245 151 then bleep 154-175
Kate Burton 01223 216580/01223 245151 bleep 152 489
(Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 09.00-17.00; Wed: 09.00-12.00)

If you are not sure whom to contact, please contact one of the secretaries and they will be able to direct your query.

Where is the department based?

The majority of the skull base appointments take place in Clinic 10. You may also be seen within the oncology unit or other outpatient clinics. The outpatient department is situated approximately 5-10 minutes’ walk from the bus station.
MRI/CT Scans

If you are on the ‘watch, wait and rescan’ protocol (active surveillance) strategy under Mr Axon, Mr Donnelly, Mr Tysome, Professor Bance or Mr Sharma then we will request your scan. The MRI or CT department will write to you nearer the time with your appointment details, but if you do not hear from them for any reason please do contact us. When you have had your scan, please email skullbase@addenbrookes.nhs.uk or telephone the secretaries for Mr Axon, Mr Donnelly, Mr Tysome, Professor Bance or Mr Sharma. Please give us your name, date of birth and hospital number if you know it. We will then obtain your scan report from the radiology department and either send you a results letter or arrange a follow up appointment should it be needed. If your scan shows no changes but you are having a change in your symptoms and would like a follow up appointment, please get in touch with the ENT secretaries on 01223 256051.

If you do not wish to contact us, you will still receive your scan results but it will take much longer for this to occur.

If you are being followed up after radiotherapy treatment, the oncology department will arrange your scan and you will receive your results at a follow up appointment.

Privacy & Dignity

Same sex bays and bathrooms are offered in all wards except critical care and theatre recovery areas where the use of high-tech equipment and/or specialist one to one care is required.