

Our annual organisational survey aims to provide an up to date central resource of the bowel cancer services provided on-site by individual trusts/hospitals/Welsh MDTs.

NBOCA sends out questionnaires to all NHS trusts/hospitals within England and all multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) within Wales. This year 140 out of 141 English trusts/hospitals responded and 13 out of 13 Welsh MDTs.

The facilities available are not the only factor in providing the best care for patients and it is expected that not all trusts/hospitals/MDTs will have all services. We hope this information will help you think about what questions you might like to ask your doctors and help you to see how far you may need to travel for different services.

You can access these results at: <https://www.nboca.org.uk/reports/organisational-survey-results-2019/>

ADVANCED DISEASE SERVICES



The six procedures below are used for bowel cancer which has spread outside the bowel wall and in to other parts of the body. They are highly specialist surgical operations.

1. Multivisceral resection

Removal of other organs in addition to bowel for the treatment of colon cancer.

2. Extended lymphadenectomy

Removal of additional lymph nodes or 'glands' on the pelvic walls or close to major blood vessels.

3. Complex vascular reconstruction

Replacement of major blood vessels because tumour is invading in to them and could not otherwise be completely removed.

4. Pelvic exenteration

Removal of all pelvic organs including the urinary and reproductive organs, in addition to bowel for the treatment of rectal cancer.

5. Sacrectomy

Removal of part of the lower backbone (spine) called the sacrum.

6. Intra-operative radiotherapy

Radiotherapy given during surgery.

SUPPORT SERVICES



ERAS (Enhanced Recovery After Surgery) nurses

Help patients recover more quickly after major surgery

Palliative care

Care given to patients whose disease cannot be cured. Hospital doctors should have 24/7 access to these services.

Psychological input

Specialist services to help patients cope mentally with a diagnosis of bowel cancer

EMERGENCY SERVICES



Colorectal surgeon always on-call

Bowel cancer patients who require emergency operations will be cared for by a bowel cancer specialist at all times

Bowel stenting 24/7

A stent is a hollow tube inserted inside the bowel to relieve a blockage

SPECIALIST SURGICAL SERVICES



Hepatobiliary surgeons

Specialist surgeons who can treat bowel cancer that has spread to the liver

Thoracic surgeons

Specialist surgeons who can treat bowel cancer that has spread to the lungs

Robotic surgery

Some hospitals within England are now using robots to perform surgery

ONCOLOGY SERVICES



Chemotherapy

Drug therapy used to treat cancer

External beam radiotherapy

Special x-rays used to treat cancer

DIAGNOSTIC & PRE-OPERATIVE SERVICES



MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) liver

A scan used to assess the liver for tumors

PET (Positron Emission Topography) scan

A special scan that may detect the presence of disease before it is evident on other types of scan

CPET (Cardio-pulmonary Exercise Testing)

An exercise test designed to assess the heart and lungs before major surgery

Routine genetic testing

Special tests for a genetic condition called Lynch Syndrome which significantly increases your risk of bowel cancer

The services available at each trust/hospital/MDT can also be found on each individual results page:

<https://www.nboca.org.uk/trust-results/>

We would like to thank the NBOCA Patient Panel for their invaluable input in to this leaflet. Details about the Patient Panel can be found here:

<https://www.nboca.org.uk/about/our-team/>