

This booklet was adapted by Neuro-Oncology
Nursing Service using the Edinburgh
Neuro-Oncology information leaflet

**If you require this information in other formats or
languages, please speak to a member of staff for
details**

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GLIADEL[®] IMPLANT

Information for Patients

Your questions answered



**This booklet provides information about Gliadel
Implants, sometimes referred to as Gliadel Wafers.**

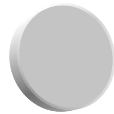
What are Gliadel Implants?

Gliadel Implants are small biodegradable discs approximately the size of a 5 pence piece containing the anticancer drug carmustine. They are inserted into the brain or into the brain tumour during surgery to help control the brain tumour.

Each implant contains 7.7 mg of the active ingredient carmustine and the inactive ingredient polifeprosan 20.



Approximate size of a Gliadel
Implant



Why have Gliadel Implants been prescribed?

Gliadel Implants have been shown to prolong survival in some patients with brain tumours. They have proven to be beneficial in patients with recurrent glioblastoma.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.gliadel.com

www.cancerhelp.org.uk

www.braintumouruk.org.uk

Www.neurosupport.org.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Mr. A Brodbelt Consultant Neurosurgeon
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0151 529 5679

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0151 529 5648

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PALS Officer
0151 529 6100

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District Nurse

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GP Surgery

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How do Gliadel Implants work?

Gliadel Implants are a way to deliver the anticancer drug carmustine directly to the site of the brain tumour. They are inserted directly into the tumour cavity at the time of resection.

Do the Gliadel Implants have to be removed?

Gliadel Implants do not usually have to be removed. They slowly dissolve over a few weeks releasing carmustine, the anti cancer drug, directly to the surrounding cells.

Will Gliadel Implants affect other medication?

It is important that your consultant is aware of any medication that you take even if it is bought over the counter or not prescribed so that appropriate advice can be given.

Could anticancer drugs be given by mouth?

Some effective anticancer drugs can be given by mouth but the brain is protected from toxic substances in the body by a special mechanism called the blood brain barrier. Placing Gliadel Implants directly into the tumour area overcomes this barrier.

How do patients feel?

Patients who have implants inserted during surgery will not feel any differently to patients who have surgery for tumour removal alone.

Are Gliadel Implants for every one?

Typically younger patients who have had surgery to debulk a glioblastoma and have then responded well to initial radiotherapy and chemotherapy respond better to Gliadel wafers.

Who pays for Gliadel implants?

Each individual is assessed by their Neurosurgeon, who in turn will apply for funding from the patient's local Primary Care Trust

Will any other tests be needed?

A blood test is usually requested 10 days after implantation of Gliadel to ensure that the bone marrow is still producing adequate blood cells. This is a precaution to ensure that there are enough cells to prevent infection or unusual bruising and bleeding.

Pregnancy and contraception

There have been no studies of Gliadel Implants in pregnant women, but as the active drug may affect foetal development, women of childbearing age are advised to use reliable contraception. Breast feeding is not advised.

We advise male patients not to father a child during and up to 6 months after treatment with Gliadel Implants. Because of the possibility of irreversible infertility due to treatment with Gliadel you should discuss the storage of sperm with your consultant.

Gliadel Implants should not affect your sexual activity.