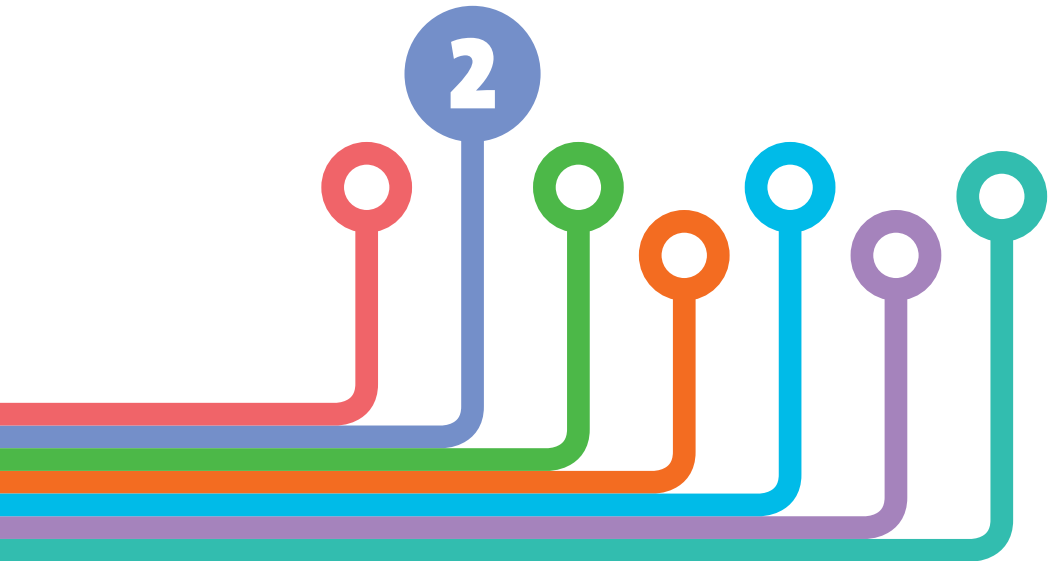


Patient Guide

# Receiving diagnosis after biopsy



## What happens?

Histopathology is the study of diseased tissue at a minute (microscopic) level. If you have had a biopsy, a specialist in interpreting the pathology of brain tissue (neuropathologist) will examine the cells in your tumour's tissue in the laboratory. The pathologist will be able to see what type and grade of tumour you have.

It is a good idea to take someone with you when you receive the results following your biopsy. They can help listen and be your advocate.

## What is the optimum standard of care according to the IOG?

- All tumours diagnosed on imaging need to have a confirmed histopathological diagnosis (through biopsy) unless the neuroscience MDT decides that a biopsy would be too risky or is otherwise inappropriate.
- Timely and efficient compliance with national cancer waiting times targets (one hospital, for example, returns histopathology results in 4–7 days).
- The histopathological findings of your tumour will be discussed in an MDT and compared with images and clinical disease features. MDTs are usually held weekly. Your case will be discussed within 1–2 weeks after surgery. A final report is then written.

## What does *brainstrust* think I should expect?

- You should receive a diagnosis based on the pathology results within 1 working day (if you are an inpatient) and 5 working days (as an outpatient) AFTER the MDT.

## What questions could I ask?

Before asking questions, think carefully about how much you truly want to know. Once you have knowledge, this cannot be undone.

- What is the tumour type?
- What grade of tumour do I have? What does this mean?
- Where is it? How will its position impact on me?
- Can you explain my pathology reports to me?
- Who has reviewed my tumour sample?
- Has any molecular testing been done? If not, why not? (for information on molecular testing, [www.brainstrust.org.uk/advice-therapies.php](http://www.brainstrust.org.uk/advice-therapies.php)).
- If molecular testing has been done, does it suggest a role for chemotherapy?
- How will this testing impact on my treatment plan?

## Receiving diagnosis after biopsy sources

brainstrust, *Brain tumour symptoms and diagnosis*, available at [www.brainstrust.org.uk/advice-symptoms.php](http://www.brainstrust.org.uk/advice-symptoms.php)

Cambridge University Hospitals, *Living with a brain tumour: Brain tumour diagnosis and tests*, available at [www.cuh.org.uk/resources/pdf/patient\\_information\\_leaflets/PIN1624\\_brain\\_tumour\\_diagnosis\\_and\\_tests.pdf](http://www.cuh.org.uk/resources/pdf/patient_information_leaflets/PIN1624_brain_tumour_diagnosis_and_tests.pdf)

Choices, *Preparing for your Cancer Test Results*, [www.nhs.uk/Livewell/cancer/Pages/Gettingyourresults.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/cancer/Pages/Gettingyourresults.aspx)

NICE, *Improving Outcomes for people with brain and other CNS tumours*, June 2006, available at [www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/10905/28963/28963.pdf](http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/10905/28963/28963.pdf)

National Cancer Peer Review Programme Manual for Cancer Services: Brain and CNS Measures Version 1.2

*National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Data Set*, available at [www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data\\_dictionary/messages/clinical\\_data\\_sets/data\\_sets/national\\_cancer\\_waiting\\_times\\_monitoring\\_data\\_set\\_fr.asp](http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/messages/clinical_data_sets/data_sets/national_cancer_waiting_times_monitoring_data_set_fr.asp)

Young, B, Stewart, W, O'Dowd, G. *Wheater's Basic Pathology: a text, atlas and review of histopathology* 5th edition, 2011.

