

# Silver Jubilee celebrations for Clatterbridge Papillon Centre (1992-2017)

A team from Clatterbridge Cancer Centre led by Professor Arthur Sun Myint visited Lyon in France to study contact x-ray brachytherapy (CXB) also known as Papillon technique for rectal cancer. The Papillon facility was set up at Clatterbridge in 1992 and started treating patients with rectal cancer in 1993. Therapax (Gulmay, UK) machine was used initially until 2009. A new machine made by British company Arian was available from 2008 and the Papillon Plus prototype machine, first in the world, was used to start treating patients from October 2009. They have now treated over 1000 patients which is the world largest cohort of patients treated by contact x-ray brachytherapy. A new dedicated Papillon suite to treat rectal cancer patients was opened at Clatterbridge on 27th September by Sir Ian Gilmore (past President of the Royal College of Physicians). In 2014, Papillon suite received 'Macmillian-Quality Care Environment' award in recognition of their outstanding services in creating a quality environment for patients who travelled from all around the UK and other parts of the world. Clatterbridge trained clinicians, physicists and radiographers from other centres hoping to set up Papillon facilities in the UK and other countries since 2010. There are four centres in the UK with Papillon facilities and 12 around the world. NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) published their recommendation in September 2015 as IP 532. NICE recommend contact X-ray brachytherapy for patients with rectal cancer not suitable for surgery as a safe and effective treatment. The international contact radiotherapy network (ICONE) has set up an international randomised trial OPERA (Organ Preservation for Early Rectal Adenocarcinoma) which has started recruiting patients in



The Papillon machine with Professor Sun Myint (lead Clinician in Papillon) and Kate Perkins (Papillon Specialist Radiographer).



The Papillon Centre at Clatterbridge

France. We have now got ethical approval in the UK and hoping to start recruiting patients once the trial is in the NIHR portfolio, hopefully later this year.

Papillon patients support group (PAPS) was set up in 2008 and Clatterbridge hold regular annual meetings which were well attended. Lead volunteer for PAPS Sue Davies was awarded a prestigious Macmillian volunteer of the year award in 2013. Lead Clinician Professor Sun Myint is a keen advocate for 'Patients' choice' and lobby all Government bodies and organisations in his travels around the world presenting a strong case on behalf of his patients. NHS England should consider expanding more facilities for rectal cancer patients using contact x-ray brachytherapy (Papillon) around the UK as the number of cases diagnosed with early rectal cancer suitable for Papillon is increasing through National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (NBCSP) started since 2006. If there is residual cancer or local regrowth at a later date after Papillon, successful salvage surgery can be carried out without compromising the chance of cure for patients wishing to avoid extirpative surgery and a stoma. The population is ageing and there are

published evidence on surgical harm in older patients undergoing extirpative surgery. The quality of life following Papillon treatment can be much better and Macmillian Services is supporting a prospective survey as part of their 'Living beyond cancer' project. We hope that the new NICE colorectal guidelines (2018) will include Papillon as an option for treatment of patients with rectal cancer as this is still not regarded as a standard of care. NICE guidelines will change the standard of care in patients with rectal cancer not just in the UK but around the world.

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