

Xstrahl News: December 2010

Radiotherapy treatment for Dupuytren's disease given green light by NICE

Throughout 2010, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, NICE has been reviewing the radiotherapy treatment of Dupuytren's Contracture for clinics in England and Wales. The consultation period ended recently and guidelines for the treatment have now been published.

The review, undertaken with the involvement of Hand Surgeons, Radiotherapists and patients, cleared the treatment of nodules in the palm of the hand, which are typical for the initial stage Dupuytren's disease. It was accepted that it may be effective in postponing or preventing the need for surgical intervention brought on by the later development of contracted fingers.

Wolfgang Wach of the Dupuytren Society, some of whose members contributed to the NICE review commented, "These guidelines are good news for patients, as radiotherapy is an important treatment option in the care of early stage Dupuytren's disease. We hope that this guideline from NICE will encourage more clinics to take up procedure."

Although the cause of the condition is unclear and there is no cure, there are a number of treatments that can help sufferers. These include 'Needle Aponuerotomy' or surgical Fasciectomy. The advantage of radiotherapy treatment is that it can slow or stop the development of the condition without affecting any other treatment options in the future.

You can find the guidance and further information including notes for patients on the NICE website: <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/IPG368>

Treatment delivery

The treatment of benign diseases is often not available within radiotherapy centres, due to the priority given to the treatment of malignant diseases using a clinics' Linear Accelerators. For this reason, many centres prefer to use kilovoltage units such as the Xstrahl X-ray Therapy System for these types of treatments. The viability of this kind of service is enhanced by the ease of use of the system, combined with the minimal treatment planning required for treatments such as Dupuytren's.

For further information contact support@xstrahl.com