

# Penile Cancer

## What Is It?

This is a rare cancer with over 600 new cases diagnosed every year in the UK. It usually affects men aged over 60 years although younger men are being increasingly diagnosed. As it's a rare cancer, its treatment is in dedicated specialist centres. The prognosis can be good if the cancer is picked up and treated early.

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## How Does It Present?

It can affect any part of the penis but usually starts at the part of the penis furthest away from the body.

Symptoms may include:

- Painful lump/redness patch/ulcer
  - Discharge with foul odour from under the foreskin
  - Discharge/blood from tip of the penis or in urine
  - Problems with passing urine including pain
  - Abnormality of the foreskin
  - Lumps/pain in the groin
  - Rare: weight loss
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## What Are The Risk Factors?

- Age: risk rises with age
  - Pre-cancerous lesions of the penis
  - Smoking
  - Presence of foreskin: extremely rare in men circumcised prior to puberty
  - Tight foreskin
  - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV): this is a very common sexually transmitted virus. Certain types are associated with the development of some cancers including penile cancer.
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## What Else Could The Penile Abnormality Be?

- Pre-malignant lesion
  - Chronic inflammation
  - Sexually transmitted infection
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## How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be seen in a clinic by a penile cancer Surgeon. A full history and examination will be undertaken. The following will be part of this assessment:

- An ultrasound scan or MRI scan of the penis will be arranged to assess the penis and determine how much of the penis is involved with the cancer.
  - An ultrasound scan of the groin will be undertaken to determine if the lymph nodes in the groin may be involved with the cancer.
  - A CT scan may be organised to check for cancer outside the penis and groin.
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## What Treatments Are Available?

The treatments can be divided into 3 parts:

- Penis
  - Groin
  - Pelvis
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## What Are The Penis Treatment Options? (Please See Individual Leaflets)

- Penile biopsy
  - Circumcision: if cancer only involves the foreskin
  - Wide local excision
  - Glansectomy with/without skin graft
  - Partial penectomy with/without skin graft
  - Subtotal/total penectomy with perineal urethrostomy
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## What Are The Groin Treatment Options? (Please See Individual Leaflets)

- Fine needle aspiration
  - Dynamic Sentinel Lymph node biopsy
  - Modified/radical groin lymph node dissection
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## What Are The Pelvis Treatment Options? (Please See

## Individual Leaflets).

- Pelvic lymph node dissection
- Chemotherapy +/- radiotherapy

To learn more about treatments for penile cancer, please visit our specialist andrology clinic, Birmingham Penis Clinic