

London Cancer Brain and Spine Cancer Tumour Pathway Board Annual Report 2018-19

Introduction

The Brain and Spine Cancer Tumour Pathway Board supports care for patients with cancers of the brain and spinal cord. It is led by Mr Edward McKintosh, Tumour Pathway Director, with project management support from Simon Evans. Membership includes representation from Patients, primary care and hospital cancer professionals across the region.

In the past year we have increased links with our patient and carer community. This will serve us well in achieving the workplan for the coming year. Of particular importance is likely to be the reconfiguration of brain tumour surgery which I expect the board and its members to be heavily involved in. We are also working with GPs to enable easier access to MRI scans for patients.

Our patients and carers tell us that rehabilitation and support once they leave hospital is a key area of importance for them and this is something we hope to work on over the coming years.

Edward Mckintosh.



**Mr Edward Mckintosh, Consultant
Neurosurgeon, Barts Health &
Brain and Spine Pathway Board
Director**

Achievements this year

Our key achievements have been:

- We held a patient education event in October 2018. Nine of the 38 patients and carers that attended agreed to become part of a wider patient network. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with patients and carers welcoming the chance to meet experts and connect with people undergoing similar experiences. Due to the success of this event we are planning a follow up event for October 2019.
- We recruited an additional patient representative, Gill Cuffaro who has already made an impact in the planning for our second patients' event. The board looks forward to incorporating Gill in our other workstreams.
- We have continued to support the reconfiguration of neuro-oncolgy services providing brain cancer surgery. This will continue to be a focus for 2019/20.
- We have agreed the data items for an audit of the multi-disciplinary team meetings hospitals hold to decide treatment plans. This audit will be conducted in June/July 2019. The audit will give us an intelligence as to how our MDT are functioning, and offer a baseline to understand the impact of any future changes, such as the proposed neuro-oncology surgery reconfiguration.
- We have recruited a new GP representative who is working to develop easier direct access to MRI scans for GPs and their patients. This has involved a mapping exercise to understand direct referral routes per CCG and the beginning of a data collection exercise to understand how they far they are being utilised. Initial results and advice were given at 2 GP education events.

Patient representation

We would like to thank Philip Scard for his involvement in the board. Philip helped ensure our patient event was focused towards common concerns and needs. Philip has used his links with charities to bring new items to the board's attention, such as the 'Brain Tumour Charity's' BRIAN database. We would also like to thank Gill Cuffaro who will act as a carer representative, Gill's first board meeting will be in April 2019.

"I have been grateful to serve on the board this year, learning about the processes that manage our care and contributing my own perspectives. The highlight of the year was the first patient engagement event, an opportunity to give back to other patients and carers. As patient representative my focus next year will be on access to rehab services and clinical trials."

Philip Scard, Patient Representative

Future plans

No	Objective	Owner	By
1	Run an MDT audit. Board to consider results and subsequent actions.	Board members	September 2019
2	Consider how we can improve access to rehabilitation services for patients	SE/SC/EM	Ongoing
3	Increase uptake of direct access MRI head scans in primary care through a review of current practices and targeted education/communication	EM/SK	Ongoing
4	Ensure compliance with the new 28 day faster diagnosis standard	SE/EM	April 2020
5	Improve research and access to clinical trials	SE/EM	Ongoing
6	Facilitate the reconfiguration of neuro-oncology surgical services in partnership with NHS England Specialised Commissioning	SE/EM	Ongoing
7	Hold a second education/engagement event with patients	SE/EM/PS/GC	October 2019

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the Brain and Spine Cancer Tumour Pathway Board for contributing their time to Tumour Pathway Board meetings and projects outside the meeting and also to thank all of our patients and carers for attending and joining in with the education event.