



FAQ Lymphoma

Proton Therapy Center Prague

1. During my treatment when should I start to consider proton therapy?

In such cases when your treating haematologist/clinic oncologist considers radiotherapy.

2. When do I know if I am indicated for radiotherapy (RT)?

RT is usually a standard part of treatment for early and intermediate stages of Hodgkin's lymphoma. In this situation, patients know from the very beginning of their treatment that they will be indicated for RT. In aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, primary mediastinal lymphoma, T-cell lymphoma) and advanced stages of Hodgkin's lymphoma RT is usually only indicated individually. In most cases, the doctors decide about RT indication at the end of chemotherapy, based on the results of the procedure.

In some other types of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (follicular lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma) RT is usually indicated as a single treatment at the very beginning of treatment, without adjuvant chemotherapy/biological treatment.

3. For which types of lymphoma disease is proton radiotherapy the most suitable?

Proton RT is suitable especially for patients with:

- Mediastinal disease, when the irradiated volume (original disease) is located under the level of the left coronary artery or under the level of the 7th chest vertebra.
- Young women with armpit disease, where RT spares the breast gland and thus reduces the risk of developing a treatment-induced breast tumour.
- Patients after several types of chemotherapy or after bone marrow transplant, who are at a higher risk of developing post-radiation complications (especially lung disease, cardiovascular disease and bone marrow disease).
- Active disease limited to one area of the midsection (upper- or lower-midsection disease), with no optimal response to chemotherapy or biological treatment (esp. PET-positive residual) and where it is necessary to increase the total radiation dose.

- Patients after previous radiation within the same or surrounding areas.
- Patients with an existing serious health condition (after a heart attack, heart valve disease, lung disease, etc.) and with a necessity to irradiate this area.

4. In which cases of lymphoma disease is proton therapy not possible?

Proton RT is not possible for patients with a pacemaker and/or with metal in the area.

5. My treating doctor does not recommend proton therapy. Do I need his/her or any other referral for a consultation at the Proton Therapy Center?

If the treating haematologist has indicated radiotherapy and if all the above-mentioned criteria are fulfilled (see question Nr. 3), we can assume that proton RT would be more beneficial than conventional (photon) RT. It is possible to ask our centre for a consultation regarding the option of proton therapy treatment.

6. I have finished the planned types of chemotherapy. When should I start proton therapy in the case of lymphoma disease?

Optimal timing is within 2 - 6 weeks after finishing chemotherapy. After treatment, which significantly influences the number of corpuscles/blood cells (bone marrow transplant), it is sometimes necessary to wait for a longer period of time until the blood levels stabilize.

7. My disease has spread to several distant locations, is proton radiotherapy still possible and suitable under such circumstances?

In general, radiotherapy is considered in cases of local lymph node disease where only one side of the midsection (i.e. only in the upper midsection or only in the lower midsection area). In the case of organs disease (lesions in the lungs, liver, etc.) we usually do not recommend radiotherapy, but systematic treatment (chemotherapy or biological treatment).

8. My disease does not respond to systematic treatment – chemotherapy. Is proton therapy a suitable alternative?

In some cases, proton irradiation is possible as long as conditions in question 7 are fulfilled. However, the final assessment of proton RT suitability is strictly individual.

9. Lymphoma very often affects young women, is it possible to get pregnant and give birth naturally after successful treatment?

Yes, for a major part of young women, this is possible.

10. What are the side effects of treatment?

It depends on the targeted area. Usually, during RT patients may feel tired, physically less effective. Further, swallowing difficulties may appear or phlegm, skin redness (upper midsection area irradiation) or mild diarrhoea and skin redness (lower midsection area irradiation).

11. When will the side effects disappear and when will I be able to get back to everyday life?

Most of the RT side effects disappear within 2 weeks after finishing the radiotherapy (swallowing difficulties, skin redness). Some patients with a disease of higher volume in the mediastinal area (behind the chest bone) may feel a pressure behind the chest bone, often when the weather changes (as a result of scar tissue after oncology treatment).

Most patients return to their everyday life without any limitations, including sport and more demanding physical activities. The timing is very individual – up to several months or a year. Some patients may experience slight changes in their immune system with the tendency of recurrent upper respiratory tract infections (prior chemotherapy dominates in such cases).

About Proton Therapy Center Prague

The PTC has four treatment rooms (capacity 2500 patients per year) and is equipped with the cyclotron manufactured by IBA. We use the pencil beam scanning technique, which is the most precise form of proton therapy. Our centre is also equipped with a complex diagnostic examination system (MRI, PET / CT, CT, etc.) so that our patients can carry out all necessary diagnostic examinations and proton therapy treatments under one roof.

Additional notes

- All treatments and examinations are usually performed on an outpatient basis
- Hospitalization for children is required and provided by our partner University Hospital in Motol
- Metal/ceramic parts in the body may be contraindication for proton therapy
- Pacemaker is a contraindication for proton therapy

PTC International client service

At the PTC we understand that travelling for treatment can be a daunting prospect and we aim to provide the highest quality of care and assistance to our patients by providing the following services.

- Quick reply to enquiries, usually within one business day
- Once we have received the complete medical documentation, it only takes up to two business days to receive the reply from our medical team regarding suitability for treatment, number of fractions, etc.
- Our treatment coordinators speak: English, Czech, German, Italian
- 24/7 support for patients undergoing treatment
- During treatment, patients are supplied with a Czech cell phone to use in case of an emergency
- Patients are provided with a transportation pass, which allows them to travel for free around Prague
- Constant face-to-face assistance throughout the entire treatment process
- Help with flights, accommodation, transportation
- Airport transfers are included in the treatment package and organized by our treatment coordinator
- Upon arrival, the patient is greeted personally by one of our treatment coordinators. The patient also receives a "welcome package" with our PTC International Guide, a map of Prague, and a Lonely Planet guide.
- Help with obtaining a visa by providing an official document proving that the patient is coming here for treatment.

Important Contacts

Proton Therapy UK

15 Carnival Park, Carnival Close, Basildon, Essex SS14 3WN, United Kingdom
Company no. 07467015

Contact number: 01268 919 046

www.proton-lymphoma.co.uk

www.ukprotontherapy.co.uk

The PTUK team is located in the Proton Therapy Center in Prague.

Proton Therapy Center

Budínova 2437/1a, 180 00 Praha 8, Czech Republic
Company no. 26466791

Contact number: +420 222 999 000

www.proton-cancer-treatment.com