

## Information Sheet

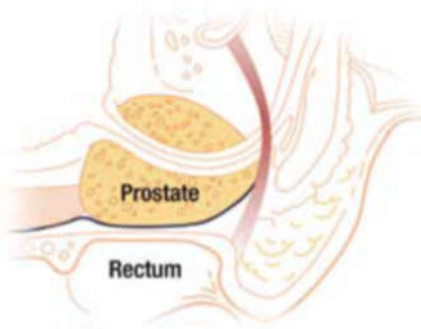
### ***SpaceOAR Hydrogel Injection into the recto prostatic fat***



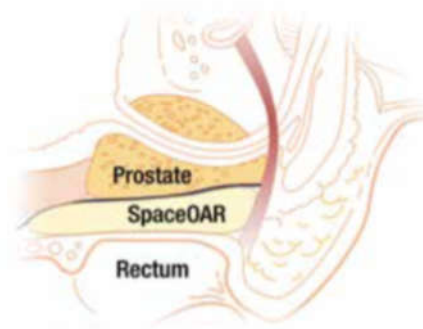
### How does it work?

SpaceOAR Hydrogel is a water-based, biodegradable soft gel implant. It works by creating a gap between the rectum and the prostate. This gap helps to reduce or eliminate damage to the rectum otherwise caused by radiotherapy.

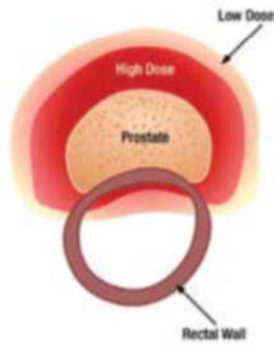
With SpaceOAR hydrogel in place, your consultant can target your cancer while reducing the risk of side-effects compared to treatment without the implant.



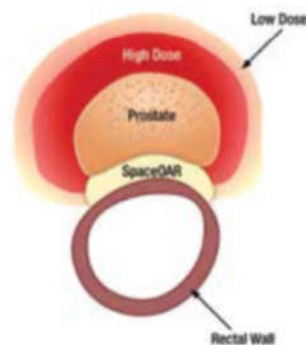
Without SpaceOAR



With SpaceOAR



Without SpaceOAR



With SpaceOAR

# What you need to know about SpaceOAR® Hydrogel

## How do I get SpaceOAR?

First your oncologist will need to check if the implant is right for you, as part of your pre-radiotherapy program. They will ask for your consent, before referring you to a specialist urologist who is trained in the implantation technique. There is no additional cost to you or your insurer for this.

Importantly, your radiotherapy treatment is not delayed – the implant is put in place two to three weeks before the start of your planned radiotherapy regime.



## What to expect during the treatment

The SpaceOAR implant itself involves a minimally invasive, day case procedure under general anaesthetic or sedation at one of our national partner hospitals. It typically takes less than 30 minutes and there is little discomfort associated with it.

The urologist inserts the gel implant into the space between the prostate and the rectum guided by ultrasound imaging. The gel is water soluble (PEG) and it naturally degrades over time after your course of radiotherapy is finished.

You don't need to worry about any special preparations before the procedure – full details about your hospital visit will be provided by the urologist in good time.

## Where do I go to for the procedure?

We have a national network of partner hospitals and have carefully selected and trained urologists to perform the procedure.

If it helps, GenesisCare can arrange for a private car service to take you to your appointment.

Everything is paid for and organised by GenesisCare. There is no additional cost to you or your private medical insurer.

## Is it safe?

SpaceOAR Hydrogel has been shown in clinical studies to be safe and effective. With the gel in place, your consultant can target your cancer while reducing the risks of side-effects compared to having radiotherapy without the implant.

## What are the potential benefits?

Clinical studies have shown that SpaceOAR can improve people's quality of life by reducing:

- Rectal complications, (eg leakage and discomfort)\*
- Urinary complications, (eg incontinence)\*

In a clinical study, this made it more likely that sexual function was retained, when compared to the control group without SpaceOAR

## How long do I need to stay in hospital?

The procedure takes around 30 minutes and you'll require either a local or general anaesthetic. However, you will be in and out of hospital in a day and immediately able to resume your usual activities.

## Are there any risks?

The procedure is approved by NICE as safe and effective, however you may notice some temporary discomfort at the injection site and feel full. Both these feelings should quickly pass. There is also a small risk of infection that can be treated with antibiotics. Your urologist and anaesthetist will explain the risks more fully as they apply to you.

### Possible side-effects:

- Common

Discomfort and feeling of fullness in the area lasting for a few hours

-Rare

Infection – an antibiotic will be given to you to prevent this

- Very to extremely rare

Piercing of bowel wall

Injection of hydrogel into a blood vessel

In 2015, 222 prostate cancer patients in the US participated in a clinical study. The results showed that Hydrogel was safe and effective – there was a significant reduction in the radiation dose to the rectum and significantly fewer side-effects.

(Reference: Mariados N and others. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2015; 92:971-977)

Author: Mr Christof Kastner – Consultant Urologist, Cambridge

This leaflet has been produced by using parts of a patient information leaflet for this procedure of Genesis Cancer Care UK limited.

*For your peace of mind*