

Patient with prior diagnosis of cancer or unknown primary with symptoms suggestive of spinal metastases / metastatic spinal cord compression (MSCC):

- Severe, intractable, progressive pain - especially in thoracic region
- New spinal nerve root pain (burning, shooting, causing numbness)
  - Altered sensation and/or reduced power in limbs
- Bladder and/or bowel disturbance (i.e. new onset of incontinence)

**Pathway One**

Symptoms suggestive of spinal metastases (with neurological symptoms) or signs suggestive of MSCC

Contact Network MSCC Co-ordinator immediately. Urgent MRI <24hours (sooner if paralysis imminent and emergency surgery proposed). Transfer MRI/CT images to MSCC Centre via IEP urgently for review. Fax referral form to MSCC Centre.

**Pathway Two**

Symptoms suggestive of spinal metastases (without new neurological symptoms)

MRI within 7 days. Contact Local MSCC co-ordinator within 24 hours of MRI scan. Transfer MRI images to MSCC centre via IEP for review and decision making. Fax referral form to MSCC Centre.

**Pathway Three**

Non specific lower back pain

Locally managed standard back care (outside remit of MSCC Guidelines)

Continue frequent observation to monitor symptom progression. If symptoms persist or progress refer via Pathway One or Two

**Contact Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression Team**  
 St. Georges Switchboard - 0208 672 1255  
 Network MSCC Co-ordinator: Bleep 6027 (24 hours) Fax number 020 8725 4613  
 Neuro-oncology MDT co-ordinator: 0208 672 4191/Bleep 7441  
 Neuro-oncology MDT Friday 08:30 at St Georges Hospital.

Patient discussed with the on call Consultant Surgeon/Clinical Oncologist/Radiologist - Network MSCC Co-ordinator feeds back to referrer and initiates treatment plan

Diagnosis: MSCC

Surgery  
 Radiotherapy  
 Retrospective discussion at the Neuro-oncology MDT

Bone metastases without pending MSCC

Prospective discussion at Neuro-oncology MDT  
 Radiotherapy  
 Surgery

Specialist Oncology

Treatment Planning - by local Oncology Team

- Presumptive or proven histology (including biopsy if required)
  - Tumour staging
- Patient assessment and preferences
- Treatments for pain relief and preventing MSCC
- Definitive treatments for MSCC prior to deterioration (within 24 hrs)

Rehabilitation and supportive care / Palliative Care