



<b>Title</b>	Borders referral guidelines for suspected malignant spinal cord compression (MSCC) – Out of hours
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<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Impact Assessed</b>	yes

# Borders Referral Guidelines for Suspected Malignant Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) - Out of Hours

## Patient reports symptoms suggestive of possible MSCC:

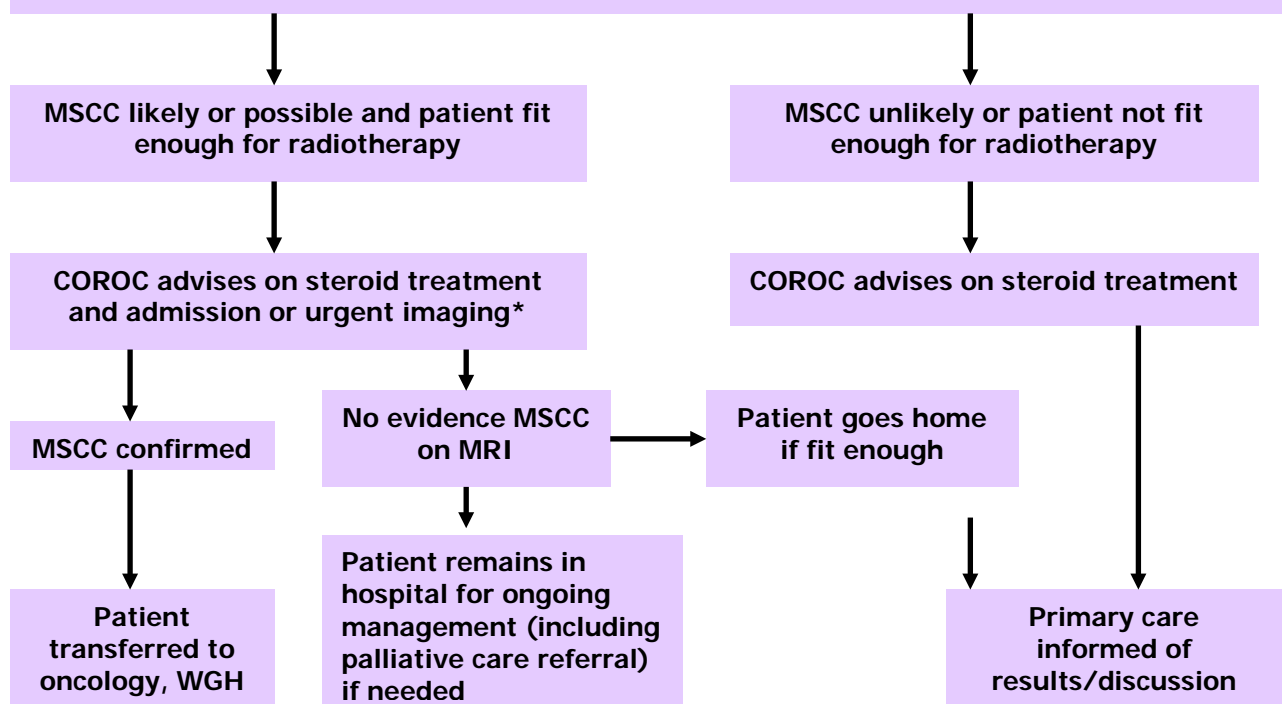
- \* Patient has a history of cancer
- \* **New, increasing, severe back pain** (especially, but not exclusively thoracic)
- \* **Sudden increase in long standing back pain**, especially with:
- \* **New spinal nerve root (radicular) pain** – burning, shooting, pain around a dermatome with or without numbness
- \* **New difficulty walking** (late sign)
- \* **Bladder or bowel disturbance** (very late sign)

Patient has medical assessment at BGH and MSCC suspected

**Doctor phones 0131 537 1000 and asks for Clinical Oncology Registrar On Call (COROC)**

### Information needed:

- Name and date of birth of patient
- History of cancer (type, spread, previous treatment including radiotherapy to spine)
- Patient's general condition (e.g. too frail for transfer to Edinburgh for treatment)
- Symptoms suggesting MSCC
- Signs on examination
- *Possible* contraindications to MRI scan (e.g. pacemaker, metallic implant)



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\* No OOH MRI available at BGH, spinal CT possible weekend daytime – discuss with on call radiologist at BGH