

Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) is a procedure for treating a small area within the brain using highly focused beams of radiation with high precision, to help shrink or control the growth of an abnormality.

By shaping the treatment beam to match the size and shape of a patient's abnormality from all angles, SRS ensures that the abnormality receives the full dose of radiation while sparing healthy tissue.

SRS can be used to treat abnormalities within the brain that are otherwise inaccessible or inappropriate for invasive surgery due to the location of the abnormality or how well the patient is.

Your specialist doctor will discuss the SRS procedure with you prior to signing your consent form.

Steroid tablets are given (or dose increased slightly if you are already on steroids) for a few days around the treating date to help prevent any headaches or nausea that the treatment may cause.

Treatment planning scans

You will require a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan (usually at The Walton Centre) prior to having the treatment. This scan will take approximately one hour and may require an injection of contrast/dye to help see the abnormality in the brain in more detail.

A mask will be made to keep your head still during the treatment. This mask will be made either at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Aintree (next to The Walton Centre), or Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Wirral (near J4 of M53). The mask making and CT scan visit will take about one hour. The appointment for the mask making is likely to be within a day or two of the MRI scan.



Picture of a model lying on treatment machine in Brainlab mask

Frameless SRS treating day

Frameless SRS treatments are given on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Aintree next to The Walton Centre. The details of all your appointments will be discussed with you when we contact you, by telephone, after your referral to us has been made.

You will not feel anything during the treatment and it will last approximately 20-30 minutes for each area that needs treating. Although you are in the room on your own, the radiographers are watching you all the time via CCTV cameras and are able to speak to you via an intercom.

After the SRS treatment, you will be reviewed by a neuro-oncology specialist nurse and then if you are feeling fine, you are allowed to go home. Phone numbers are given out at this review in case of problems or questions outside of office hours.

A few weeks later, you will see your specialist doctor to check that any side effects have subsided and that you are on the correct dose of steroids, if applicable.

