## SMART Trial

**TRIAL SPECIFIC PROCEDURE**  
**Version 3**

**SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW**

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SEMI-STRUCTURED QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW

The semi-structured interview should address the same general questions for each patient whilst allowing you to use your own follow-up questions to gain further insights or explore unexpected responses.

Prior to the interview

Patients should have read and understood the patient information sheet and have been given sufficient time to consider it and ask questions.

Written consent should be taken prior to performing the interview.

Please ensure that the audio-recording equipment is working prior to starting the interview. Once both the interviewer and trial participant are in position, test that both voices can be clearly heard by playing back a short section of speech.

The interview

Press record on the audio-recording equipment and ensure the light has come on to indicate it is recording.

Start the recording by stating the date, time and location (hospital/patient’s home) of the interview. Then state the patient’s trial number and the name of the interviewer.

Briefly introduce yourself and thank the patient for participating.

Reconfirm consent to conduct the interview. Explain that the interview is confidential and any information used will be anonymised prior to publication.

Explain that you would like to ask them a few questions about your experiences of participating in the SMART trial.

For all patients, ask:

In your own words, can you tell me what you know about your illness?

Would you like more information about your illness?

If yes, in what format would you like the information to be given to you? Would you like to talk to someone? Or would you rather written information?

I believe you are taking part in the SMART trial, can you tell me what you know about it?

Which group within the study were you allocated to?

How did you feel about going into that group?
What is your experience of your care in the trial?

Has the trial affected your quality of life in any way? (prompt the patient regarding quality of life if necessary - For example- Has the trial affected the things that you do? Your feelings? Your finances?)

For patient in the immediate radiotherapy group:

What were your experiences of the immediate (prophylactic) radiotherapy treatment?

What information were you given about the potential risks and benefits of radiotherapy?

Was the information you were given about the radiotherapy treatment helpful and adequate?

For patients in the deferred radiotherapy group:

What are your experiences of the deferred (watch and wait) treatment?

What information were you given about the potential risks and benefits of deferred (watch and wait) treatment?

Do you feel that the information you were given about the deferred (watch and wait) treatment was helpful and adequate?

For all patients, ask:

Have you had any problems or worries about the procedure site?

Is there anything else about the trial that you would like to discuss?

Close interview and thank them for participating.

During the interview

During the interview, the interviewer is encouraged to intermittently check that the patient is happy to continue being interviewed. If the patient does not wish to continue, the interview should be stopped.

Short notes can be taken during the interview if the interviewer wishes to do so.

Intermittently during the interview please check that the recording light on the digital recording device is still on.

After the interview
Stop the recording and thank the patient again for participating.

Offer them an information sheet about local and national support services and the patient advice and liaison service (PALS) should they require it. If other information needs have been highlighted in the interview or they would like the information in a different format, please arrange for these to be addressed.

If unaddressed physical or psychological symptoms have been raised by the patient during the interview, a referral to the palliative care team or GP should be considered.

Ensure the patient’s next follow up appointment is arranged.

Once the patient has left, write brief notes summarising the interview.

Save the recording of the interview to the encrypted memory stick provided.

Return the memory stick and copies of any notes taken during and after the interview to the trial team at Southmead.