

The Neuro-oncology Unit  
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust  
Sutton and London.

The Neuro-oncology Unit has a long record of research as a leading academic group in the UK, Europe and Worldwide. The principal use of financial support is to fund staff to carry out ongoing research projects.

The research activity spans studies of new therapies in malignant glioma, evaluation of modern radiotherapy techniques in a range of brain tumours as well as issues of patient care:

1. Malignant glioma

i) We are involved in phase I and II study of a biological agents (currently Pazopanib - a small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor primarily of VEGFR [vascular endothelial growth factor receptor]), run jointly with the Drug Development Unit.

ii) BR12 study which is a randomized trial of two types of chemotherapy in recurrent malignant glioma. This multicentre trial is run throughout the UK with the Marsden as the lead group. (Professor Brada is the initiator and Principal Investigator).

iii) We have completed and are analyzing a study of Carboplatin prior to initial treatment of malignant glioma.

iv) We are involved in developing a new international multicentre trial in anaplastic astrocytoma.

2. In other brain tumours our principal interest has been the development and implementation of modern high precision stereotactic radiotherapy. This has become part of standard practice and our present research focus is evaluating long term effectiveness and side effects of this treatment, which require detailed long term follow up information. We recently published outcome data in patients with craniopharyngioma and are presently analyzing the results in patients with meningioma and acoustic neuroma.

3. For many years we have been concerned with the issues of care in patients with brain tumours. We developed, evaluated and implemented novel methods of follow up in patients with malignant glioma. Our present research focus is directed to assessing the care and follow up provided for people with low grade gliomas. We are about to commence a study of "needs" in this group with the aim of appropriately altering clinical practice.