

THE LONDON GAMMA KNIFE CENTRE AT THE WELLINGTON HOSPITAL

This year celebrates the 20th anniversary of The London Gamma Knife Centre and the completion of its first year at the Platinum Medical Centre after our upgrade to an Icon Gamma Knife.



ELEKTA



icon

The London Gamma Knife Centre
at The Wellington Hospital

part of **HCA** Healthcare UK

Why Gamma Knife (GK)?

Although Cyber Knife (CK) and other linacs can be used to treat intracranial lesions, there are some advantages to treatment with GK. Total body dose is much less with GK due to the internal shielding of the machine, and brain dose is also around three times less due to the rapid dose fall off and conformality of plans. Planning for the treatment of multiple brain lesions is relatively straightforward and scanning, planning and treatment is usually all performed on one day, minimising patient travel.

Treatments can now be fractionated if required and head immobilisation is possible with either a frame (for long treatments or better accuracy of delivery) or a standard radiotherapy mask. This has expanded the range of indications for GK.

How to refer?

All referrals for radiosurgery within HCA Healthcare UK are discussed at a fortnightly MDT (with provision for urgent eMDTs where necessary). Cases are allocated to CK or GK depending on the number of lesions, proximity to critical structures, previous treatments and the need for fractionation. Once that decision is made, the unit contacts the patient to arrange pre-assessment and dates for treatment.



Where to plan?

Although the GK is based at The Wellington Hospital's Platinum Medical Centre (PMC), there are planning stations both at the PMC and also The Harley Street Clinic. Contouring and planning can be undertaken at either venue, and remote planning is likely to be introduced in the near future. With the new Icon GK, it is possible to plan a day or two in advance of treatment and to register the MRI scans with a cone beam CT on the day of treatment, either with a frame or mask head immobilisation.

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Follow-up?

This is the referring clinician's choice. The GK centre is happy to scan and review patients after treatment, but equally happy to return them to the referrer for continuity of care. Electronic transfer of scans makes it easy for the centre to import follow-up images for audit of results.

Paying for treatment

Treatment is covered by all major insurance companies and we also offer a highly competitive self-pay package, available on request.

Can I be involved in the treatments if I am not GK trained?

We welcome all referring clinicians to visit the centre and to be involved in the treatment of their patients. The experienced team at the GK is happy to frame fit and otherwise facilitate those treatments and to advise on dosimetry, so no formal training is required. Assuming the referrer is involved in the treatment (contouring, plan sign off etc.) he/she will be able to bill for the procedure.

Can I train in GK if I wish?

We have already run one training day for 10 clinicians and another is planned soon – to be held at The Wellington Hospital. We would be happy to arrange placement on a course.





Who do I speak to if I want to know more?

The primary contact is **Mr Ian Sabin**, a neurosurgeon with almost 20 years' experience of GK, now based at The Wellington Hospital. He has trained in Pittsburgh, Marseille and Stockholm and has also undertaken CK training in California.

Contact details

Tel: **020 7483 5101**

Email: **ian.sabin@hcahealthcare.co.uk**

Mobile: **07887 567387**

The London Gamma Knife Centre at The Platinum Medical Centre

15-17 Lodge Road
St John's Wood
London NW8 7JA

Directions

Underground

St John's Wood (Jubilee line) is a 15 minute walk.

Baker Street (Bakerloo, Circle, Hammersmith, Jubilee & Metropolitan lines) are a 20 minute walk.

National Rail

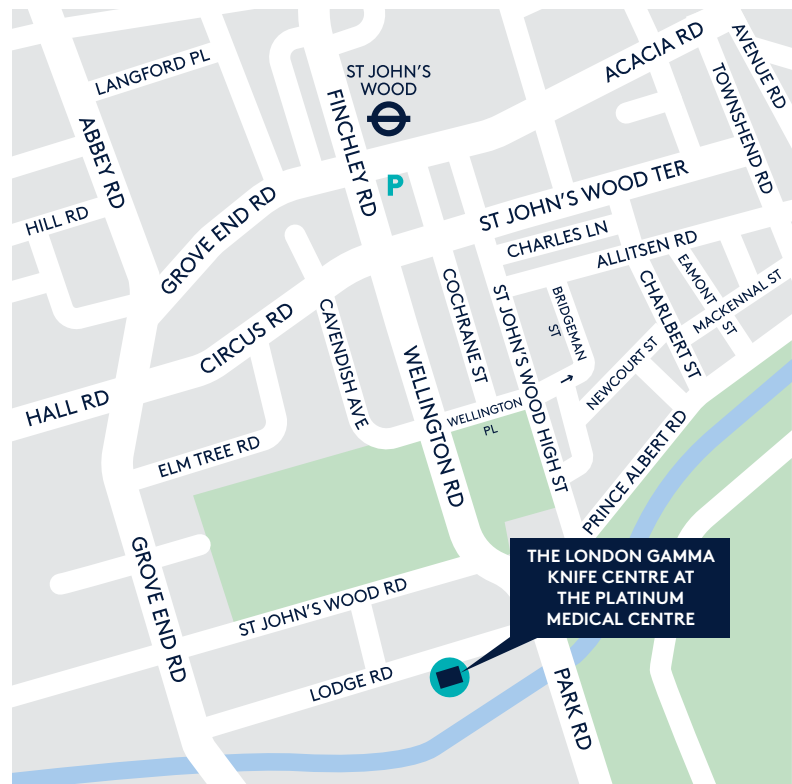
Marylebone is a 20 minute walk.

Bus

Bus stop: Park Road/Lord's Cricket Ground. Bus no 13, 82, 113, 274, N13.

Parking

Car parking is limited at the centre however parking is available nearby at the Q-Park St John's Wood car park on Kingsmill Terrace.



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