



## PATIENT LEAFLET - PHYLLODES TUMOUR

### WHAT IS A PHYLLODES TUMOUR?

Phyllodes tumours are rapidly growing breast lumps that arise from an overgrowth of the connective tissue of the breast, rather than from the breast ducts. Most Phyllodes tumours are benign (non cancerous) , but a small percentage (<10%) are malignant (cancerous). These rare malignant phyllodes act more like a sarcoma than a standard breast cancer. They rarely spread elsewhere in the body.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF PHYLLODES TUMOURS?

These tumours will usually present as a smooth, rapidly growing painless lump in the breast of pre-menopausal women, although they can occur at any age. Occasionally the skin can be red or discoloured over the lump but this is not common.

### HOW ARE PHYLLODES TUMOURS DIAGNOSED?

The standard approach of triple assessment (using a breast examination, a mammogram and/or an ultrasound scan of your breast and a needle core biopsy should make the diagnosis. More detailed information on this can be seen by visiting the Worcester breast surgery website.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR PHYLLODES TUMOURS?

While the tumours are most often benign, it is still critical to remove the entire tumour. Even if one cell is left behind, it can grow back. Treatment involves excision of both the tumour and a small margin of healthy tissue surrounding the tumour. You will not need any surgery to the armpit for a phyllodes tumour and it is unlikely that you will require any other treatment.

### WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS FOR PHYLLODES TUMOURS?

The prognosis is generally excellent. However, because phyllodes tumours can sometimes return within the breast, Miss Bright-Thomas may want to follow you up for a year or 2, usually once a year, with a clinical examination and a mammogram or ultrasound scan. If your tumour comes back, you'll need to have further surgery.