



MIDCENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua

23 April 2021

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Jack Whitehead

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Dear Jack

Your OIA request of 29 March 2021 to MidCentral District Health Board (MDHB) in which you have requested a count of T2-T3 bladder cancers treated with TURBT (transurethral resection) alone is acknowledged and has been passed on to me for response.

The information that you have requested is:

- **For bladder cancer patients in 2016, how many of those staged prior to treatment as likely T2-T3 were initially treated by transurethral resection of the tumour?**
- **I use "staged" to cover the assessment that determined the choice of treatment, however tentative and however informal the assessment may have been.**

The MDHB data quality team were requested to extract data from our patient information system. The initial data that has been extracted could not be directly linked to cancer staging information for patients who had surgical treatment.

The data quality team also worked with MDHB Cancer Services and the staging information for surgery only patients is not available in a searchable electronic database.

In discussion with the Urology Service, MDHB patients who present for suspected bladder cancer have a flexible cystoscopy followed by a TURBT. The TURBT procedure is performed for both staging and also treatment for bladder cancer. It is the histology from the TURBT that determines the stage of cancer.

I understand that this response does not address your request. I would be very happy to arrange a meeting with you to discuss best practice for bladder cancer patients.

Operations Executive, Acute & Elective Specialist Services
MidCentral District Health Board, PO Box 2056, Palmerston North 4440
Telephone (06) 356 9169

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Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the MidCentral DHB website 10 working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyn Horgan', written in a cursive style.

Lyn Horgan
Operations Executive
Acute & Elective Specialist Services