



## A non-invasive treatment for **non-melanoma skin cancer**



 **Rhenium-SCT<sup>®</sup>**  
Skin Cancer Therapy

Providing patient-centered excellence

Access and treatment will be available at our  
Hawkes Bay clinic

# Your doctor has discussed Rhenium-SCT® for your non-melanoma skin cancer

This leaflet answers questions about how the treatment works and what to expect.

## What is non-melanoma skin cancer?

Non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) are by far the most common skin cancers in New Zealand and they include basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). These cancers generally develop on areas of the skin that have been exposed to the sun. BCC and SCC tend to be less dangerous than melanoma, however, they still require treatment to stop them growing and possibly spreading.<sup>1</sup>

## What is Rhenium-SCT®?

Rhenium-Skin Cancer Therapy (SCT)® is a treatment that uses a beta radiation paste to treat BCC and SCC that have not invaded deeply or spread beyond the skin. Before treatment, we will need to know the result of a biopsy of the lesion to confirm its type and depth. We do not use this therapy for melanoma or other skin cancer types. Almost all of the radiation is deposited within 3 mm of the lesion or skin surface, which provides a targeted and non-invasive therapy that targets cancer cells and minimises exposure to healthy tissue in the surrounding area.

## How many treatments are required?

Only one treatment is required in most cases.<sup>2-7</sup>

## Who performs the procedure?

Rhenium-SCT® treatment is performed at one of our clinics under the guidance of a nuclear medicine specialist.

## How fast will it heal?

Healing typically occurs 30-90 days after treatment, but may take up to 180 days.<sup>2-7</sup> You may experience some redness, crusting, itching or even minor bleeding during the first stage of healing as your body sheds the dead cancer cells and replaces them with new healthy cells. Skin reactions usually begin within a week and will often worsen over the following 2-3 weeks.

# How does Rhenium-SCT® work?

We apply a radioactive paste over the area to be treated. The paste is left on your skin for a calculated length of time (usually between 30 and 180 minutes).<sup>2-7</sup> After the treatment is finished we remove the paste and you can go home.



1

## Marking the area

The area to be treated is marked.



2

## Treatment

The area to be treated is covered in clear plastic film before we apply the radioactive paste using a special applicator.



3

## Finishing

After about 30-180 minutes the paste is removed. The lesion will appear unchanged. A red and slightly itchy scab may develop over the next few weeks. This is normal.



4

## Follow up

Your medical professional will provide information on how to care for your skin. Typical result after 30-180 days is shown.<sup>2-7</sup>

## Does it hurt?

The treatment is painless. Over a few weeks localised redness and a scab will develop. This is a sign that the cancer cells are dying, the body is shedding them, and healing with new skin is occurring.<sup>4-7</sup> Some patients will experience itching and/or mild pain during the healing process. The lesion will initially look worse before healing. Your doctor will monitor the healing process at follow-up visits and advise you how to look after your skin as it heals.

## How safe is it?

While Rhenium-SCT® treatment involves exposure to very localised radiation, almost none penetrates deeper than 3–4 mm from the skin surface. The application process is designed to spare healthy tissue around the tumour.<sup>4,5,7</sup> As with all radiation-based procedures, there is a slight risk of infection, or radiation-induced ulcers.<sup>7</sup>

## How will it look?

When healing is complete, the treated area may look a bit lighter, smooth and hairless.<sup>4-7</sup> The procedure results in little to no scarring.

If this leaflet doesn't answer all your questions about non-melanoma skin cancer treatment with Rhenium-SCT®, ask your doctor at your next appointment. Write your questions here so you can remember them:

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You can also read more about non-melanoma skin cancer and its treatment at: <https://bit.ly/what-is-nmsc> or scan this QR code.

**References:** 1. Understanding Skin Cancer. Available at: <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Understanding-Skin-Cancer-2021.pdf> [Accessed October 2022]. 2. Castellucci P, et al. Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging, 2021; 48(5): 1511–1521. 3. Cipriani C, et al. J Dermatol Treat. 2020; DOI: 10.1080/09546634.2020.1793890. 4. Data on file. OncoBeta Garching, Germany. 5. Cipriani C, et al. Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine. 2014. RP Baum (Ed), New York: Springer. 6. Tietze JK et al. Clin Nucl Med 2023;48:869–76. 7. OncoBeta® Rhenium-188-Compound Instructions For Use. OBRE0064 – Date of preparation: August 2025

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