

A-T specialist centre - Papworth, Cambridge (adults)

In October 2004 The A-T Society organised an international meeting in Birmingham to highlight progress in A-T research and the challenges ahead.

An international consensus emerged that chest problems in adults with A-T were a major cause of ill health and death. Separate studies indicated a number of factors may contribute to chest problems in A-T including difficulties in swallowing, breathing, muscular control, infections and a weakened immune system.

Papworth Hospital was identified as the UK centre with the blend of expertise required for people with A-T. The centre provides medical assessments for people aged 16 plus.

Main Aims

- To improve quality and length of life for adults with A-T
- To provide a full medical assessment of the patient within the multidisciplinary team
- To provide Information on all aspects of A-T based on the needs of the individual patient
- To provide a written report, with recommendations for the patient's future care, to the patient, the GP and local care team.
- To aid research into A-T
- To set up a programme to assess the factors that contribute to chest problems in adults with A-T

The Team

- Natasha Everett
- Dr Nick Oscroft - Respiratory Consultant
- Dr Helen Baxendale - Immunologist
- Dr Anke Hensiek- Neurologist
- Jenny Barradell -Occupational Therapist
- Sheric Ellum and Lorna Brown- Physiotherapists
- Corinne Gaston - Speech & Language Therapist
- Steve Cardy -Social Worker.
- Penny Martin - Social Worker

Assessments

- Blood tests
- Respiratory assessment
- Immunological assessment
- Video fluoroscopy

- CT Scan

Radiation Risks

A high-resolution CT chest scan and video fluoroscopy are standard investigations for assessment of chest problems, a major cause of ill health and death in A-T. We also know that A-T is a disorder associated with increased sensitivity to radiation at levels associated with radiotherapy, rather than diagnostics.

Discussions with A-T clinical experts at the international meeting in October 2004, at the Nottingham A-T Clinic, with Professor Malcolm Taylor, University of Birmingham and with the A-T Society have produced a consensus that a high-resolution CT chest scan and video fluoroscopy are low risk and essential to clinical assessment in A-T.

The CT scan and video fluoroscopy will be assessed by our radiologists who have considerable expertise in chest problems.

The team are sensitive to concerns about radiation risks and are happy to discuss this. No examinations will be carried out without the patient's consent.

Visit

When you come to Papworth, you are booked in as an inpatient. You will stay in a private room with en suite bathroom and flat screen TV. There is a pull-out bed in the room for a relative to use. The A-T Society will also arrange B&B accommodation for other relatives/carers nearby if required.

Admission is on Sunday evening and you are seen by various Doctors/Therapists over the time you spend at Papworth. You will be discharged on Tuesday lunchtime. Appointments run throughout the year and are arranged to suit your needs. You will be called back to Papworth every year for a review. The A-T Society can also help with transport.

Referral

Adults (16 years plus) with A-T or A-T like condition should be referred to the centre by their local GP or hospital doctor. The A-T Society can contact your GP or Consultant to start the process. Referrals should be addressed to:

**Dr Nick Oscroft, Adult A-T Services, Papworth Hospital, Papworth Road, Cambridge
Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, CB2 0AY**

You can also contact Natasha Everett - Clinic Coordinator on 01223 639452 or email [Natasha](#)

If you have any queries regarding this centre or would like to arrange an appointment, please contact the 'Support Team', Kay Atkins (Family Support Manager) or Anne Murray (Family Support Co-ordinator) on **01582 760733** or email [Support](#)