

## **Proton Beam Therapy**

Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) is a type of radiotherapy that uses beams of 'protons' (energised particles), instead of beams of X-rays ('photons'), that are used in conventional radiotherapy. The aim of both types of radiotherapy is to direct the radiation towards the tumour cells and destroy them. However, it is important to appreciate that Proton Beam Therapy is not suitable for everyone.

Two NHS centres will provide high energy proton beam therapy in the UK, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (Manchester) and University College London Hospital (UCLH) NHS Foundation Trust.

The Christie NHS proton beam therapy centre opened in Autumn 2018, and the first patient was treated in December 2018.

The second NHS centre is currently being built at University College London Hospitals. UCLH will gradually ramp up PBT activity during 2021. When complete the two centres will each treat up to 750 patients every year.