

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 201803683, Lothian NHS Board - Acute Division  
**Sector:** health  
**Subject:** clinical treatment / diagnosis  
**Decision:** not upheld, no recommendations

### Summary

Mr C attended the Western General Hospital after he experienced seizures. They carried out scans, which showed a lesion (an abnormal growth) in his brain. Mr C complained that there was a delay in diagnosing that it was brain cancer, as medical staff initially thought that the lesion was an abscess (a collection of infected fluid). We took independent advice from a consultant oncologist (cancer specialist). We found it was reasonable that Mr C's lesion was thought to be an abscess, given the results of the scans and his medical history. We found that it was good practice that they also tested the lesion for cancer. We did not uphold this aspect of the complaint.

Mr C also complained that when cancer treatment options were discussed with him, he was not given appropriate support. In addition, he complained that there was a delay in telling him about fertility options before he started his cancer treatment. We found that Mr C had appropriate support from the multidisciplinary team and his family when treatment options were discussed with him. We also found that he was given appropriate written information about fertility options. Therefore, we did not uphold these aspects of the complaint.