Acute care

In urgent situations, speed is of the essence to prevent the situation becoming worse. Ambulances therefore always reach the patient within fifteen minutes, and at any time, night or day, the mobile medical team can be deployed via the trauma helicopter.

The UMCG houses the largest trauma center in the Netherlands. It is the only trauma center in the Northern Netherlands and northern Germany that offers the full range of emergency medicine from the moment of admission and treatment in the central emergency department through to rehabilitation in the Rehabilitation Center at the Beatrixoord site. For more than three million inhabitants, we are the ultimate address for highly specialized acute medical care for every conceivable acute life-threatening disorder. As a result of that reason, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has identified the UMCG as a trauma center with helicopter facilities. Not all patients requiring urgent hospital treatment are sent to the UMCG. As a result, we collaborate closely with all hospitals and ambulance services in the region. We also ensure that we share our most recent knowledge and skills in the field of acute care with other care institutions.

Chronic patients

Many people suffer from a chronic disorder as they become older. Chronic patients visit the UMCG because within our hospital, we carry out a great deal of research into the occurrence, development and treatment of chronic disorders, while focusing attention on maintaining quality of life. Based on the knowledge we have acquired of a range of disorders, we are often pioneers in providing new forms of treatment. The UMCG offers solid care programs for people with chronic disorders, for example, disorders affecting heart, liver, lungs, kidneys and locomotor apparatus. To ensure that patient care is provided as smoothly as possible, the UMCG collaborates with patient organizations on the provision of chain care. For example, in collaboration with chronic care organizations, general practitioners, nursing homes and other hospitals in the region.
Children

Children who face disease at a young age are treated at the UMCG in the Beatrix Children’s Hospital. In terms of patient care, our goal is to ensure that the child has the best possible start in life so that in adulthood, he or she suffers as little hindrance as possible from his or her disease or disorder. A good start as a child above all contributes to healthy ageing in the case of chronic diseases.

In our research work within pediatric medicine, we focus on the threats to development and the barriers the disorders raise on the road to adulthood. Physicians and nurses at the Beatrix Children’s Hospital work closely together to make sick children better. We consider it essential to keep the experience of sick children who are admitted to hospital as pleasant as possible. With that in mind, we try to maintain as much contact as possible with the home front. Children are taught by the staff of the educational service, and keep in touch with their friends via Internet.

Transplants

For patients who have undergone all available treatments for their disorder, there is sometimes only one option available: transplant. Once a patient has undergone a transplant, he or she will be taught the essential life rules, and will learn which medication has to be taken. As a result, in principle the patient is able to live just as healthy a life as anyone else. At the UMCG, all forms of organ and tissue transplant are carried out on both adults and children. In that respect, we are one of the few hospitals in the world, and the only hospital in the Netherlands where these treatments are provided in this way. Many transplant patients therefore travel long distances to receive their difficult and high-risk treatment in Groningen. They know that here they are in the very best hands. For many years we have undertaken a great deal of research into chronic diseases such as the failure of vital organs. Indeed, we continue to carry out research with a view to further improving the results of organ transplants.

Oncology (cancer)

Alongside cardiovascular disease, cancer is the leading cause of death in the Netherlands. The risk of cancer increases considerably with age. And because we are all living longer, it is expected that over the coming years, the number of cancer patients will rise rapidly. Traditionally, the UMCG has been the leading center for oncological care in the region. More and more patients are treated or live longer with their disease. As a result, treatment and care are also undergoing change, and are also often more complex than in the past. This means that the organization of care for cancer patients is highly focused on close collaboration between physicians, nurses and other groups of professionals. At the UMCG, a great deal of research is carried out in the field of oncology. Groningen has an excellent international reputation in translating results of study into daily patient care.

Psychiatry

Psychiatric problems are common and represent a massive hindrance to quality of life. The UMCG undertakes a great deal of scientific research into psychiatric disorders, and we offer special care programs to help patients and their families. Partners and family are often involved in treatment programs. Some patients arrive at the UMCG with early stage psychological problems, while others are treated for chronic problems. Yet another group of patients is occasionally admitted in crisis situations. Together with the University Psychiatry Center (UCP), the UMCG is able to provide a full range of psychiatric care from acute admission via psychiatric diagnosis through to interventions and treatments, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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On the elderly

Just a hundred years ago, few people actually reached old age. Today, people are generally living longer. Elderly patients often present a combination of multiple disorders, physical and often also psychological. Focusing care and treatment on just one disorder or disease is then often not effective. Against that background, the UMCG has developed an approach which focuses on the wellbeing of elderly patients, taking into account all the illnesses presented and all aspects of the patient’s life. General practitioners and medical specialists refer elderly patients with a complex combination of health problems to the University Center for Geriatric Medicine (UCG) at the UMCG. We consider collaboration with other care institutions and caregivers extremely important.

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