

PRECISION Panc – messaging for patients

The need for change

The need for change is clear: people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer now are only very slightly more likely to survive than those who were diagnosed 45 years ago, especially when diagnosed at a late stage. Treatment options for people with pancreatic cancer are limited and the treatments that we have don't work for all patients.

Our understanding of the science behind pancreatic cancer is improving. We're discovering more about the disease, including the role that genes play in pancreatic cancer and how it is treated.

We already know that there are different types of pancreatic cancer, such as the most common type, pancreatic adenocarcinoma. However, researchers are now starting to understand that there are different types of pancreatic cancer based on the genes involved.

Genes are found in every cell in our bodies, including cancer cells. Genes are the instructions that control how our bodies work. There is a set of genes in every cell in our bodies. There are genes in cancer cells as well as normal cells. Most cancers start due to changes in genes that happen over a person's lifetime. Based on the different genes that change in the cancer cells, there may be different types of pancreatic cancer. Researchers think that using treatments that are specific or tailored to the gene changes in each person's cancer cells might be more effective than using standard treatment.

The fact that everybody's pancreatic cancer is different on a genetic level is one reason that pancreatic cancer is so tough to treat.

To improve treatment for people with pancreatic cancer, we need to be able to identify the specific type of pancreatic cancer a person has based on their genetic make-up, and give them a treatment tailored to that type. This approach needs to be tested in clinical trials.

<p>PRECISION Panc aim – that people with pancreatic cancer can be matched to the treatment most likely to work for their type of cancer. This is known as precision medicine.</p>
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The PRECISION Panc Study

Precision medicine – sometimes called personalised medicine – is a developing area for many health conditions. PRECISION Panc is looking at using this approach for pancreatic cancer, so we can be more precise in treating the disease.

About the study

The study will look at the genes causing pancreatic cancer and use this to understand more about which treatments will work for different types of cancers. The study will also look at aspects of cancer other than the genes – the research team will look in more detail at the science behind pancreatic cancer in the laboratory.

The study will involve people providing tissue and blood samples so that the researchers can look at the altered genes in their cancer. As well as the normal biopsy taken for diagnosis (where a small sample of the cancer is taken with a special needle), people would give permission for extra biopsies to be taken for research in this study. This would be done before the start of treatment. Extra blood samples would be also taken at the same time as taking normal blood samples needed for routine care. Further details about these procedures are provided in the information given to everyone taking part in the study.

People may then be able to take part in one of the clinical trials which are part of the PRECISION Panc study. These trials will test new treatments, often comparing these with the current standard of care.

It might be years before we see the results from this study, but through PRECISION Panc we have a chance to change the way that we develop, test, and use treatments for people with pancreatic cancer.

Can I get involved?

Talk to your doctor about taking part in the PRECISION Panc study.

Taking part in the study may not give the researchers information that can be used to change your individual treatment. But this study could help researchers better understand the genetics of different types of pancreatic cancer, and you may help people with pancreatic cancer in the future.

There may be reasons that you are not able to take part in the PRECISION Panc study. It is important to speak to your doctor about whether the study might be suitable for you.

To find out more visit the

- [Cancer Research UK's pancreatic cancer trials](#)
- [Pancreatic Cancer UK's Trial Finder](#)
- The [PRECISION Panc website](#)

Or contact

- One of the nurses on Cancer Research UK's helpline on 0808 800 4040
- One of Pancreatic Cancer UK's specialist nurses on their free Support Line on [0808 801 0707](tel:08088010707) or nurse@pancreaticcancer.org.uk.
- A member of the PRECISION Panc team on contact@precisionpanc.org

You may not be able to receive a treatment tailored to you right now. But by taking part in the PRECISION Panc study, you could help people with pancreatic cancer have that option in the future.

To find out more about the PRECISION Panc study visit precisionpanc.org/patient-information