

Revolutionary cancer-detecting blood tests to be piloted

The NHS launched a pilot for an innovative pilot blood test that claims would help detecting the cancers, detect more than 50 types of cancer.

Announcing this initiative, health service Chief Executive Sir Simon Stevens said, "the New blood test would be capable of detecting the cancers".

The Galleri blood test can detect early stage cancers through a simple blood test.

Head of prevention and early detection research at Cancer Research UK, Dr David Crosby, said: "All too often, patients are being diagnosed at a late stage, where their cancer is deeply rooted and requires significant intervention, often with poor outcomes". Highlighting in the Lancet Oncology, the Cancer Research UK's, emphasised

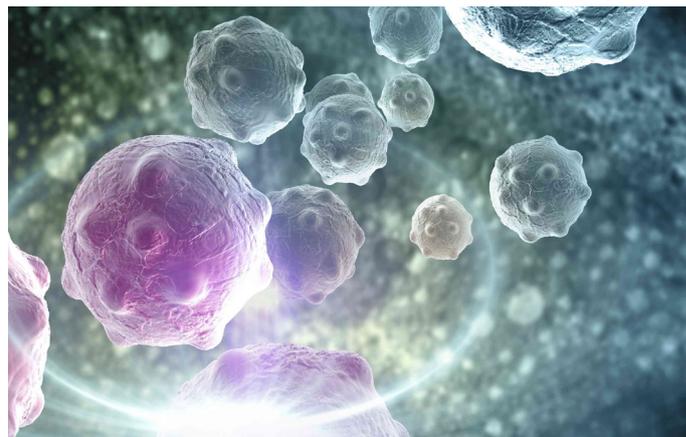
that the earlier detection offers arguably the single biggest opportunity to save lives from the disease.

Early detection of cancer can be key to reducing its mortality. Patients whose conditions are diagnosed at 'stage one' typically have between five and 10 times the chance of surviving compared with those found at 'stage four'.

The test works by checking for molecular changes which can serve as early warning signs of cancer. Research on patients with signs of cancer has already found this new test is capable of identifying many types of cancer which are more difficult to diagnose early, such as head and neck, ovarian, pancreatic, esophageal and some blood cancers.

One of the ambitions of the NHS Long Term Plan, to increase the proportion of cancers caught early, could be significantly boosted should the test be proven suitable for regular use.

The early detection – particularly for hard-to-treat conditions like ovarian and pancreatic cancer – has the



potential to save many lives. This promising blood test is expected to prove a game-changer in cancer care, helping thousands more people to get successful treatment. Patients with conditions diagnosed at 'stage one' typically have between five and 10 times the chance of surviving compared with those found at 'stage four'. NHS Chief Executive Sir Stevens said: "While the good news is that cancer survival is now at a record high, over a thousand people every day are newly diagnosed with cancer.

The trial is due to start in mid-2021, involving 165,000 patients as part of a world-first deal struck by NHS England with the test's developers. The 140,000 participants aged 50 to 79 who have no symptoms but will be tested annually for three years. People will be identified through NHS records and approached to take part, referring for investigation in the NHS. Another 25,000 people with possible cancer symptoms will also be offered testing to speed up their diagnosis after being referred to hospital in the normal way.

New treatment recommended for difficult-to-treat cancer

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in the United Kingdom has approved the treatment – isatuximab for the people with difficult-to-treat multiple myeloma.

It is recommended the use of this drug through the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) which is a source of funding for cancer drugs in England. It provides patients with faster access to the most promising new cancer treatments.

The treatment – isatuximab, administered as an intravenous infusion, plus pomalidomide and dexamethasone – has been recommended for use as an option for treating relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma in adults. This is to be offered as a treatment

option for those whose disease has progressed from their last treatment if they have had three previous forms of treatment. Many of these patients are those where the disease has returned or become resistant to the treatments they've already had.

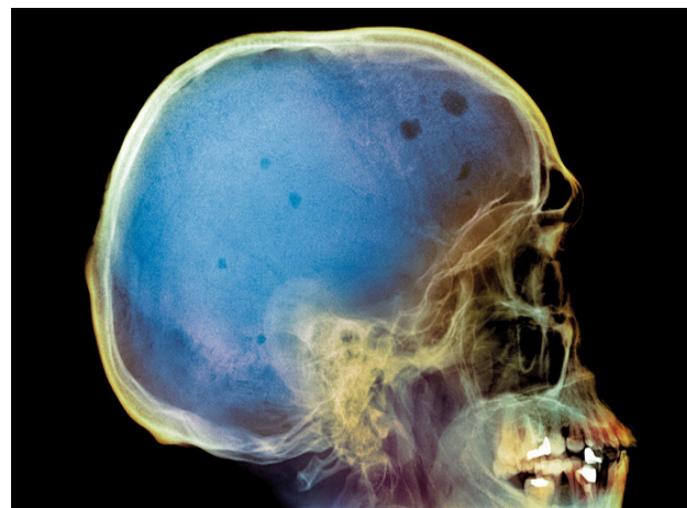
Meindert Boysen, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of the Centre for Health Technology Evaluation at NICE, said: "Our independent appraisal committee has recognised more treatment options are needed for those with difficult-to-treat multiple myeloma." Adding that "Some of the data has already shown promise that isatuximab plus pomalidomide and dexamethasone delays the disease from progressing and increases how long people live compared with

current treatment options. Approximately 5,700 new cases of multiple myeloma are diagnosed each year in the UK, making it the fifth most common cancer overall.

The treatment could not be recommended for routine

use on the NHS because of uncertainty within the cost-effectiveness estimates, as there are limitations in the clinical data.

Around 500 people a year are set to benefit from NICE's recommendation.



Battle to find effective COVID-19 vaccine

Dr Satwinder Basra
General Practitioner

The battle to stake the claim that 'we have found an effective COVID-19 Vaccine' is now reaching a climax as the politicians seek for a ray of hope in their quest for the final rescue.

International Pharmaceutical corporate giants are scrambling to be anointed as the one who got the vaccine first. Let us accept that it is going to be lucrative business and relief for the world health organisations struggling to cope with the spread of suffering and mortality.

The global death toll has reached the park of 1.44m with recorded infected cases passing the total 61.6m. The United Kingdom is bracing for the burst of the second wave and thereafter the post-Christmas spikes cases.

The death toll in the UK has passed 57,551 by the end of November 2020. The USA has reached to 2,65,000 deaths and France 52,000. India with 1,36,000 COVID19 mortality¹.



Interestingly, China where the virus originated has recorded 4,634 deaths.

There are key stages involved in finding a vaccine.

Sate One: Preclinical Stage: Identifying the right antigen or antigen(s) can often take up to four years.

Stage two: Phases two is in two sections; Is it safe, and what's the right dose? Determining the most effective dose and expand the safety experience with the vaccine. Clinical trials normally last several months to even a year before proceeding to phase 3.

Stage three: Phase 3 is all about how effective is the vaccine. In this clinical trial, volunteers are involved who receive the vaccine to study whether it is effective.

Stage fourth: The fourth stage

is crucial in the pathway of producing the vaccine. The research outcome needs to be approved by the relevant Regulatory authorities and licensure. They need to be convinced, is it ready and safe for the use in the world.

Final stage: The challenge in the final phase is for these agencies to stay involved continuing to monitor production; inspecting manufacturing facilities; and testing vaccines for potency, safety and purity.

According to the report in CFRA Research's flagship newsletter, The Outlook, globally, there are more than 100 vaccines under development. 9 of these are already in the phase of human clinical trials.

The name that is being noted for leading the race is Johnson & Johnson JNJ, Pfizer (PFE) AstraZenca and Oxford. Many experts believe that they seemed to deploy massive resources for R&D and manufacturing to produce hundreds of millions of doses.

Since late January 2020, JNJ's Janssen unit has been working to develop a preventive vaccine against Covid19. They are known to have reached a strategic collaborative phase to provide an affordable vaccine on a massive scale.

JNJ estimates it could be ready in early 2021.

In the event when an approval is granted, the NHS is expected to trigger the vaccination programme. The NHS is expected to roll out its tried and tested plans built on the plans for influenza vaccine².

This means the general practice, pharmacies and other providers will have an important role in this endeavour to ensure the coverage accesses all the localities in the country.

The approval of a vaccines is awaited, hoping it would be in December 2020 with mass vaccination more likely in the New Year. Some expect that two potential vaccines - from AstraZenca and from Pfizer, are the most likely to be the first available.

The Government has assured that it has secured enough of each to vaccinate those most vulnerable to COVID-19 and will set out the prioritisation of any vaccine based on advice from the JCVI.

1 <https://www.google.com/search?q=total+worlds+covid+cases&oq=total+worlds+covid+cases&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i13i457j0i13i2j0i22i>

2 Relevant guidance from NHS England and NHS Improvement can be found on: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care>

"Pharmacists play a unique and valuable resource with hugely important role in reaching out to both patient and public, stretching out to a number of generation within one household," says Prof Patel.



Professor Mahendra G Patel
BPharm PhD Alumni
Fellow NICE FHEA

Professor Mahendra G Patel, Honorary Visiting Professor, Academic Pharmacist, Pharmacy Research Champion NIHR (Yorks & Humber) has joined the PRINCIPLE team at Nuffield Dept of Primary Care Health Sciences University of OXFORD.

In placing the pharmacy on Oxford university platform, Prof Patel emphasised that the pharmacists play a unique and valuable resource with hugely important role in reaching out to both patient and public.

Adding, "To strengthen

community engagement to the Trial, especially the undeserved and BAME communities, and making greater use of the vast network of pharmacy across the various health care settings throughout the UK".

Professor Patel, a pharmacist and member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's English pharmacy board and C+D's clinical advisory board

A recent Public Health England review, Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19, published in June 2 and an Office

for National Statistics report released last month (May 7) both point to evidence suggesting that BAME people are "at greater risk" from COVID-19 than those of white ethnicity.

Professor Patel said he was "delighted and honoured to be joining the Principle trial for this very important work in the crusade against COVID-19".

Well done Prof Patel.

Prof Patel is a member of the the Advisory Board of Swasthya, a health journal for professionals.

Royal College of Psychiatrists 2020 Dean elections

Four candidates are standing in 2020/21 elections



Professor Subodh Dave

FRCPsych MMed (Clinical Education); Consultant Psychiatrist Deputy Director of Undergraduate Medical Education, Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust; Professor of Psychiatry, University of Bolton; Chair, Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry (AUTP); Imm. Past Asso Dean, Trainee Support, Royal College of Psychiatrists.; RCPsych Trainer of the Year 2017



Prof Nandini Chakraborty

MD, FRCPsych Consultant Psychiatrist in EIP, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. Honorary Professor, University of Leicester, Dept. of Health Sciences.



Dr Chris O'Loughlin

BM BS BMedSci (Hons), MRCP, FRCPsych, Head of School of Psychiatry, Health Education England (East of England). Consultant Community Adult Psychiatrist, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.



Dr Johan Alastair

MB ChB (Aberdeen), MRCP, FRCPsych Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disability, NHS Lothian and NHS Fife RCPsych Associate Dean for Curricula (2018)

Source:

<https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/about-us/our-people-and-how-we-make-decisions/elections/our-2020-candidates-for-dean/dean-nominations>

Royal College of Psychiatrists Election for new officers



RAMAKRISHNAN, Dr Anand, BSc, MBBS, DPM, MMedSc, MSc, FRCPsych; Consultant Psychiatrist, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

In 1926 receiving its Royal Charter to become the 'Royal Medico Psychological Association', and finally in 1971 receiving a Supplemental Charter to become the 'Royal College of Psychiatrists' we know today.

The key role of the College: (a) advance the science and practice of psychiatry and related subjects, (b) further public education in psychiatry and related subjects

(c) promote study and research work in psychiatry and all sciences and disciplines connected with the understanding and treatment of mental

disorder. in all its forms and aspects.

The position of a Dean in the College is most valuable since it contributes towards providing leadership to the work on training and education, as well as recruitment and retention.

The Dean also works very closely with the President and other officers at the core of the governance of the College.

The incumbent Dean, Dr Kate Lovett will be finishing her term of office in summer of 2011.

We thank Kate for her contribution and wish her all the best for her endeavors for the future. □

Royal College of Psychiatrists Election of its new Treasurer

Royal College of Psychiatrists has announced the process for electing its next Treasurer and Dean. Current post holders, Dr Jan Falkowski and Dr Kate Lovett finish their terms of office in summer 2021.

All Members, Fellows and Specialist Associates can vote for the next Dean and Treasurer. Voting remains open from 16 December 2020 to 13 January 2021. Results will be announced on 14 January.

Hustings are planned on virtual platform for Treasurer and Dean elections where the president, Dr Adrian James will host the event. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions to each candidate.

Details of elections are available at <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/about-us/our-people-and-how-we-make-decisions/elections>