

PANORAMA Trial

Analysis of PSMA expression in prostate cancer and its Relationship with the presence of nodal Metastases

The PANORAMA study wanted to study the levels of a molecule called PSMA (Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen) in the prostate cancer within the prostate gland and in the lymph nodes that might be affected by cancer. A molecule is a group of two or more atoms held together by chemical bonds. An antigen is a toxin which induces an immune response. Most prostate cancers grow very slowly but, in some men, prostate cancer can grow more quickly. In some cases, prostate cancer may spread to other parts of the body.

A common place for prostate cancer to spread to is the lymph nodes (sometimes called lymph glands). Lymph nodes are part of the lymphatic system. They are found throughout the body and some of the lymph nodes are in the pelvic area, near the prostate. The process of determining how much cancer is in the body and where it is located is known as staging. At present it is very difficult to find out if the prostate cancer has spread to the lymph glands in the pelvis. It is important to know this as it will help doctors to plan treatment better.

The purpose of the study was to discover whether the PSMA molecule linked to a radioactive tracer (68Ga-HBED-PSMA-11) was effective at finding cancer cells in lymph glands. The study wanted to determine whether the absence of PSMA in the lymph glands on the scan reliably indicated the absence of cancer in the tissue. This would help determine whether or not 68Ga-HBED-PSMA-11 PET/CT was able to show if the cancer had spread to the lymph nodes, and avoid unnecessary lymph node removal – a more invasive procedure.

The Sponsor of the trial was Public Health Scotland (PHS) which is based in the United Kingdom. This Imaging study was coordinated by the Scottish Clinical Trials Research Unit, in Edinburgh, which is a Public Health Scotland organisation that receives funding from the Scottish government. All study procedures were provided by the NHS.

Cancer Research UK provided funds to cover the costs of running the study.

Five patients took part in the study from two hospitals in the UK, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge and University College Hospital London. The trial stopped recruiting patients on 21st January 2022. The trial did not recruit enough patients to draw any conclusions from the study.