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COVID-19 cancer attitudes and behaviour study

Submission date
21/07/2020

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
31/07/2020

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
30/12/2021

Condition category
Cancer

[X] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
During the COVID-19 pandemic, people may not be aware of the importance of seeking early medical help for signs of cancer or taking up screening, when available, to diagnose cancer sooner. In addition, some people may not want to be referred to a hospital for diagnostic tests due to fear of catching coronavirus in the healthcare setting. COVID-19 may also affect whether people take part in healthy behaviours that can reduce the chances of getting cancer. These factors may lead to more cancers occurring, and more cancers being diagnosed at a late stage when treatment may be less successful.
The researchers want to understand how people are thinking about getting help from doctors at the moment. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the numbers of people visiting their GP with potentially serious symptoms have reduced dramatically. The researchers are concerned that people may not be aware of the importance of seeking medical help if they notice any changes in their body or health. They also want to understand how coronavirus may affect whether people take part in health behaviours.

Who can participate?
Adults aged 18+ who live across the UK. The aim is to include adults from a range of different backgrounds including people from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background and those who live in disadvantaged communities as data suggests that they may have been more affected by coronavirus than other groups.

What does the study involve?
Working closely with Cancer Research UK, the researchers will carry out an online survey with at least 3,500 people to ask about any recent symptoms, cancer screening and health behaviours during the UK lockdown period. Survey questions will include the delay in visiting the GP with a range of possible cancer symptoms, attitudes to cancer screening and anxiety about seeking help in the current situation. Other barriers to seeking help will be explored together with health behaviours including smoking, alcohol, diet and physical activity. People will also be asked how they would prefer to receive public health information. Each survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. The researchers will ask people to provide some personal information (e.g. name, date of birth and address). They would like to use these details to be able to link peoples responses with routinely collected health service data which already exist (e.g. admissions to hospital or contact with your GP). They will also interview by telephone around 30 people who have taken part in the survey to understand their attitudes and behaviours in more detail. The

survey and interviews will be repeated with the same people around six months later, to assess any changes in their views and information preferences.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
There will be no direct advantages or benefits to people from taking part. However, THE participants' contribution will help the researchers to understand the impact of coronavirus on health and health behaviours. The results will help them work with the NHS, public health services and charities to reduce the negative impact of coronavirus in the future.

Where is the study run from?
Cardiff University (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
June 2020 to March 2022

Who is funding the study?
UK Research and Innovation

Who is the main contact?
Yvonne Moriarty
MoriartyY@cardiff.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

Contact name
Ms Yvonne Moriarty

ORCID ID
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7608-4699

Contact details
Centre for Trials Research
4th floor Neuadd Meirrionydd
Heath Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF14 4YS
+44 (0)2920687937
moriartyy@cardiff.ac.uk

Additional identifiers

Study information

Scientific Title
COVID-19 cancer attitudes and behaviour study: a prospective mixed-methods cohort study

Acronym
CABS

Study objectives
To generate rapid evidence-based on public views/response, informing public health interventions to encourage timely symptom presentation, screening engagement and cancer-related health behaviours in the wake of the pandemic.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 29/07/2020, Cardiff University School of Medicine Ethics Committee (Cardiff University School of Medicine, College of Biomedical and Life Sciences, Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XN, UK; no telephone number provided; EvansCR9@cardiff.ac.uk), ref: none provided

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Prospective mixed-methods cohort study

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Cancer behaviour science in the general population

Interventions
Members of the public will be invited to complete an online survey to ask about any recent symptoms, cancer screening and health behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic. Survey questions will include the delay in visiting the GP with a range of possible cancer symptoms, attitudes to cancer screening and anxiety about seeking help in the current situation. Other barriers to seeking help will be explored together with health behaviours including smoking, alcohol, diet and physical activity. People will also be asked how they would prefer to receive public health information.

The researchers will also interview by telephone around 30 people who have taken part in the survey to understand their attitudes and behaviours in more detail. The survey and interviews will be repeated with the same people around 6 months later to assess any changes in their views and information preferences.

Finally, the researchers will link the survey data with medical records available in Wales to assess the number of GP referrals and tests for suspected cancer symptoms, whether people have taken part in cancer screening, whether people who smoke have quit, and the number and stage of new cancers diagnosed.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)

Self-reported time to presentation in those who have experienced a potential cancer symptom measured using online survey at baseline and 6 months

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Anticipated time to presentation with hypothetical cancer symptoms measured using online survey at baseline and 6 months
2. Cancer screening intentions measured using online survey at baseline and 6 months
3. Health behaviours – smoking, alcohol, diet, exercise measured using online survey at baseline and 6 months

Completion date
31/03/2022

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
Members of the public are eligible to take part if they are:
1. Aged over 18 years
2. Living in the UK

Participant type(s)
All

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
7543

Key exclusion criteria
Members of the public are not eligible to take part if they are non-English speakers

Date of first enrolment
05/08/2020

Date of final enrolment
31/12/2020

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

Wales

Study participating centre
Centre for Trials Research
Neuadd Meirrionydd
Heath Park
Cardiff
United Kingdom
CF14 4YS

Sponsor information

Organisation
Cardiff University

ROR
https://ror.org/03kk7td41

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
UK Research and Innovation

Alternative Name(s)
UKRI

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	Cancer symptom experience and help-seeking behaviour	16/09/2021	21/09/2021	Yes	No
Results article	cancer screening intentions	01/12/2021	30/12/2021	Yes	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes