



New prostate cancer vaccine trial for men before radical prostatectomy may reduce risk of relapse

15% of men who have surgery to remove their prostate (prostatectomy) for prostate cancer will sadly relapse and many of these men will go on to develop metastatic disease. To reduce this risk of relapse, the University of Surrey and Royal Surrey County Hospital have launched a clinical trial for men scheduled to have a radical prostatectomy. The trial involves treating the patient with a non-toxic cancer vaccine **prior** to surgery. The vaccine is made up of immune cells from the patient himself, modified in the lab and given back as a series of injections. This early intervention could potentially greatly improve the outlook for men at risk of relapse.

The study is called SP17, this vaccine has been already used in men with more advanced prostate cancer, is safe and not associated with any side effects of note. In the trial, men would have a short pause prior to scheduled surgery while their vaccine is made and administered. This delay would NOT affect the outcome of surgery. Once surgery is completed, the scientists will look inside the removed cancer and measure the intensity of the immune response.

Men who are considering prostatectomy, should contact the research team if they are interested in participating via Helen Gregory at H.Gregory@surrey.ac.uk/ 01483 686 074

The study title is: A phase I/II study of neoadjuvant dendritic cell immunization (DCVAC/PCa) for organ-confined prostate cancer: tissue evaluation of immune infiltration into the primary tumours

