

Red Trouser Day

Progress Report Summer 2018



The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity is incredibly grateful for your support and we are delighted to send you this update demonstrating the achievements of Red Trouser Day funded research. The International Robotic Colorectal Registry team have had a successful year developing and testing the website so it is now ready to launch and the Neurotensin research project is well underway. It is thanks to your funding and support that the teams have been able to carry out these research projects for the benefit of cancer patients everywhere.



1) The International Robotic Colorectal Registry

There are over 35 centres in the UK and Ireland which perform large bowel operations assisted by robotic systems. Six hundred and ten operations were performed in 2016. The number of cases is increasing by 30% year on year. Theoretical advantages of robotically assisted surgery include improved dexterity, 3D vision, more intuitive control and for the patient a smaller incision and potentially much faster recovery time. The benefit of robotic versus more conventional approaches to large bowel surgery remains unclear. There is a pressing need to set up a collaborative network to compile national outcome data, pool experience, monitor safety and improve the training of robotically assisted large bowel surgery. The proposed Robotic Registry will capture comprehensive data from every robotic colorectal case performed in the UK and Ireland to achieve these aims.

Aims

- To assess the safety of uptake of robotically assisted large bowel surgery in the UK and Ireland.

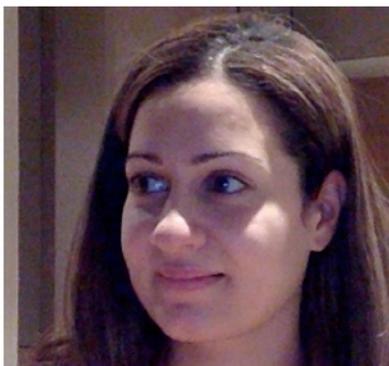
robotically assisted large bowel surgeries.

- To compare short and long term outcomes of robotic, key-hole, and open operations for rectal (last 15cm of large bowel) cancer.
- To determine ideal surgical technique for best outcomes based on patient and cancer characteristics.
- To assess the cost-effectiveness of robotic colorectal surgery and compare this with other surgical modalities.
- To assess the long-term impact of surgery on patients, i.e. bowel function and quality of life following robotically assisted large bowel surgery.

Steering Group

Surgeons from participating centres will be invited to join the UK and Ireland Robotic Registry Collaborative steering group. The project will be led by Prof Paris Tekkis. Prof George Hanna (Imperial College London) will be the data custodian to ensure data security and confidentiality. The registry will be run on a day to day basis by the research team at Imperial College London.

Update



Expression pattern and clinic-pathological relevance of Neurotensin and its receptors in colorectal cancer

The team are working towards using NT as a future blood test to identify high-risk patients for bowel cancer and also as a test to detect cancer returning, as part of the routine surveillance. Completion of the project including analysis is expected by summer 2019. Pending the results of the study and further funding, these patients will be further followed up for five years to see whether Neurotensin can be used as a prognostic, predictive or surveillance marker.

Pictured left: Research Fellow Miss Nikolaou.

The Robotic Registry was created in collaboration with research partners and developers at PAM Internet, who previously set up an international registry for a new surgical technique for rectal cancer operations. It will be accessed through <http://www.roboticregistry.org>.

Development and testing of the registry website is now complete. The website will launch in August 2018. Initially, all surgeons performing robotic colorectal surgery in the UK and Ireland will be invited to join. Over 40 UK surgeons have expressed an interest to participate in the project. Surgeons from Europe and other countries around the world will be invited in the second phase. The project is funded to run for five years however the registry will be kept open beyond this.

Patient and centre details will be anonymised and data will not be analysed at an individual surgeon level. Each surgeon and patient will have access to their data.

The dataset collected in the ACPGBI Robotic Registry will include: 1) Patient demographics (age, sex), 2) tumour characteristics, 3) preoperative chemotherapy and radiotherapy details, 4) operation details, 5) postoperative outcomes, 6) postoperative cancer specimen details, 7) readmissions details, 8) late complications, 9) long-term outcomes, 10) long term function and quality of life.

2) Expression pattern and clinic-pathological relevance of Neurotensin and its receptors in colorectal cancer

Introduction

Neurotensin (NT) is a protein which is found in the brain, the spinal cord and the gastrointestinal tract (stomach, small intestine and large intestine). It plays a role in the normal functioning of the gastrointestinal tract.

NT appears to act on cancer cells in large intestinal cancers to increase their growth.

Research Team

The research team is comprised of Professor Tekkis, Mr Kontovounisios, Mr Rasheed, Mr Qiu and Miss Nikolaou.

Update

The project is underway and PHD student Miss Nikolaou has recruited half of the 110 patients with a bowel cancer diagnosis required for the study. Each of the patients will have the level of NT in their blood measured before their operation and also in the cancer tissue after their operation. Follow up blood tests will be undertaken monthly after their treatment until August 2019.

Recruitment to the trial is expected to finish in October 2018 after which Miss Nikolaou will start the analysis.



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