



Let's drive earlier diagnosis

Pancreatic cancer is the deadliest of all 22 common cancers with a five year survival rate of just above 3%ⁱ. This figure has not improved in over 40 yearsⁱⁱ. Affecting nearly 9,000 men and women across the UK every year, it is the UK's 5th biggest cancer killer^{iv} – killing 23 people a day^v. UK One-year survival rates (an indication of late stage disease on diagnosis) are half that of the best countries in Europe and 1/3 lower than the European average^{vi}. Neglected and underfunded, pancreatic cancer receives less than 1% of overall cancer research funding^{vii}.

In order to improve survival for pancreatic cancer patients in the future, we need the next UK Government to take action in the following areas:



GP ACCESS TO CT SCANS

- Contrast-enhanced CT-scans are one of the most definitive ways pancreatic cancer can be diagnosed, yet GPs currently do not have direct access to CT scans.
- Currently they have to refer patients to a specialist who then can order the scan. This causes delays in diagnosis and needs to change.
- Late diagnosis is the reason why UK pancreatic cancer survival rates lag behind the majority of those in the EU.

We need to provide GPs with direct or improved access to CT scans to speed up diagnosis.



IMPROVE AWARENESS AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS

- 87% of the UK public don't know the location of their pancreas in their body and half of all patients have not heard of pancreatic cancer before their own diagnosis.
- 50% of the UK population cannot name a single symptom of pancreatic cancer.

We urgently need pancreatic cancer to be included in a Department of Health cancer awareness campaign and for more GPs to be aware of early symptoms of the disease.



PANCREATIC CANCER AUDIT

- Unlike Scotland and Northern Ireland, there has never been a full audit of pancreatic cancer services from diagnosis to treatment to palliative care in England - where the majority of patients reside.

We need an audit to understand where best practice is happening so we can emulate this across the UK improving standards and outcomes for patients.



INCREASE GOVERNMENT PROPORTION OF RESEARCH FUNDING

- Pancreatic cancer receives less than 1% of overall cancer research funding despite it being the UK's 5th biggest cancer killer.
- In 2013, this amounted to only £5.4 million. Of this, only £500,000 was funded by UK government.

Pancreatic cancer charities are too small to heavily invest in research funding (although we do what we can) so we need help from government to reduce the inequalities of funding between cancer types.

ⁱ CRUK The 20 Most Common Causes of Cancer Death: 2010 <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/mortality/cancerdeaths/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/types/pancreas/survival/>

ⁱⁱⁱ ONS Cancer Statistics Registrations England (Series MB1 – No 41 2010) Released 13 June 2012

^{iv} CRUK The 20 Most Common Causes of Cancer Death: 2010 <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/mortality/cancerdeaths/>

^v Total UK 2011 mortality divided by 365 days

^{vi} Eurocare 5: <https://w3.iss.it/site/EU5Results/forms/SA0007.aspx>

^{vii} NCRI CRD Data Package 2013- available to download online <http://www.ncri.org.uk/what-we-do/research-database>