ESPAC-Tplus Trial

The objective of ESPAC-Tplus is to identify markers in the primary tumour which predict improved probability of survival with either adjuvant 5-FU or gemcitabine following resection for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

The ESPAC-Tplus trial will centralise collection and characterization of tissue, which will then be coded and linked with clinical outcome data.

Tissue microarrays and matched samples will be sent out to the ESPAC centres for direct analyses of proteins which are involved in 5FU and gemcitabine metabolism or have been otherwise linked to drug response and survival.

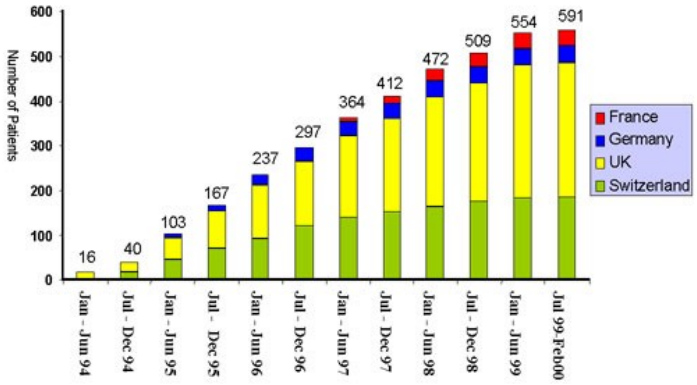
The project will ultimately enable specific treatments to be targeted to patients who are likely to respond to particular treatments.

ESPAC-1

The aim was to try and establish whether giving chemoradiotherapy for six weeks immediately after surgery, or chemotherapy for six months or a combination of both could improve the long-term survival from surgery.

Between February 1994 and February 2000 83 clinicians in 61 cancer centres across 11 European countries recruited 591 patients with resected pancreatic cancer into the study.

The preliminary results showed that survival after surgery was much better than expected. Moreover adding chemotherapy probably increased survival even further - and equally important - the use of chemoradiotherapy (commonly used in the USA) was of NO BENEFIT



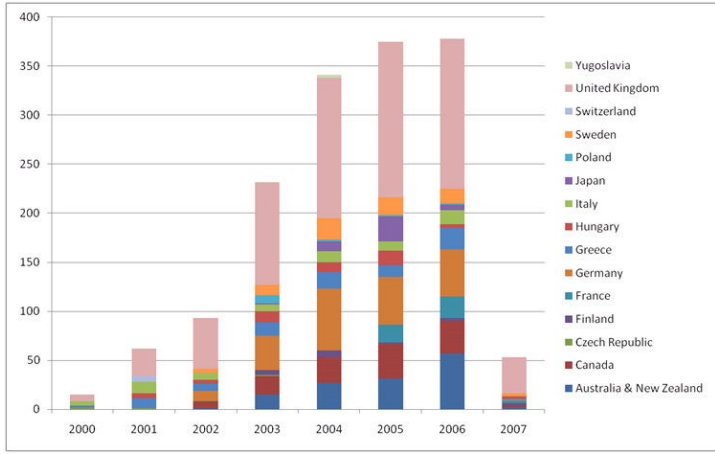
ESPAC-1 Recruitment figures

ESPAC-3 (v2)

ESPAC-3 was formulated as a result of the ESPAC-1 study and was originally designed to test 2 hypotheses;

1. Whether post operative treatment with chemotherapy drug gemcitabine, or chemotherapy drug 5-Fluorouracil & Folinic Acid (5FU/FA), improve survival compared to no additional treatment following surgery to remove pancreatic cancer
2. To see whether there is any difference in terms of survival between gemcitabine and 5FU/FA as post-operative (or adjuvant) chemotherapy treatments

Centrally coordinated from the LCTU, this trial has recruited in excess of 1500 patients from more than 150 centres in 17 countries



ESPAC-3 (v2) Recruitment figures

The Database

We have now established the ESPAC-Tplus database which allows us to recode samples in order to comply with national regulations.

The Committee

Applications for use of the samples will be considered by a committee chaired by Professor Nicholas Lemoine and consist of clinical and translational scientists from the ESPAC centres.

Laboratory GCLP Storage

We have established the GCLP Suite and are now awaiting accreditation.

ESPAC-Tplus lab technician Liz Garner

Lead Scientist Bill Greenhalf

Tracy Ball the Trial Support Officer would like to say "Thank you to the sites who have already shown an interest in the study"

The LCTU

The Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit works closely with Cancer Research UK in the clinical research of new and existing products for the treatment of cancer, easing suffering and improving the quality of life for cancer patients.

Trial Support Officer:

Tracy Ball

t.racyb@liverpool.ac.uk

For more information about pancreatic cancer or current trials running within the Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit, please email:

lctu@liverpool.ac.uk

Or visit the LCTU website:

www.lctu.org.uk

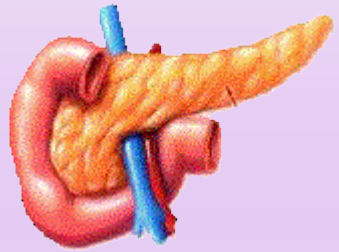
LCTU

Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit

LCTU

Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit

ESPAC - Tplus



CHARACTERISATION OF TUMOUR MOLECULAR RESPONSE PREDICTORS OF CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIOTHERAPY TREATMENTS FOR PANCREATIC CANCER IN PATIENTS IN THE ESPAC TRIALS