

Petal Fundraising Group
Raising funds for research into childhood cancers on behalf of
Cancer Research UK.

Petal Research

Professor Jillian Birch – Cancer Research UK Manchester Centre

Studied a group of over 3,400 children to look into how and why cancers develop in children and teenagers. Resulting in a succession of findings relating to the causes of cancer. One outcome is that they identified a gene (TP53) which is mutated in some families leading to an increased risk of early onset breast cancer and other tumours.

Martin Elliott – Cancer Research UK Leeds Centre
£150,000 donated by Petal over three years

2700 patients across Europe and 550 involved are from the UK

Trial - To answer the following important questions:

- a) - What is the most effective chemotherapy to give to patients at initial diagnosis - to allow them to proceed to the next parts of the treatment (surgery, radiotherapy and stem cell transplant). Both of the chemotherapy schedules being investigated are very toxic so we are also comparing the toxicity (which includes death from treatment) between the two regimes - if they are both equally effective in treating the neuroblastoma then the regime with less associated toxicity will go ahead as standard treatment in the future.
- b) - Immunotherapy - we know that immunotherapy is an important component in improving the survival of patients but it is very toxic and in particular causes severe pain. We are trying a new regime with slower administration of the antibody - hopefully this means that we will be able to give patients this effective treatment but without the current side effect profile. At the same time we are also making additions to the immunotherapy in a randomised way to try and optimise the immunotherapy treatment.



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Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103).