

Infosheet patient consultee v2 14112013

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## **Investigating mutational signatures in cancer and other inherited disorders**

### **Patient Consultee's Information Sheet**

We would like to invite the patient to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not he/she should participate, it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what it would involve for the patient. Please take time to consider the information carefully and talk to others about the study if you wish.

- Part 1 tells you the purpose of the study and what will happen if the patient takes part.
- Part 2 gives you more detailed information about how the study will be undertaken.

Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

The aim of this study is to understand the DNA (genetic code) changes that add up in the cells of patients who have symptoms such as cancer at a young age / faster aging / learning problems. We would like you to read the following information and consider whether you are happy to allow the patient's samples to be used for this study.

### **PART I**

#### **Why has the patient been invited?**

The patient was identified by his/her doctor as having a condition with symptoms that are probably due to damage occurring to the genetic material (or DNA) in his/her cells. In this study, we are inviting people with the patient's symptoms to understand how and why damage builds up in the DNA of cells.

#### **What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of this study is to understand how and why damage accumulates in DNA.

Almost all the cells in the body contain a copy of the human genetic code (or DNA). This DNA is constantly damaged and this can lead to errors in the genetic code. Usually, these errors are corrected by a person's DNA repair toolkit that exists in cells. Occasionally, some errors are missed or become permanent changes. These changes are called mutations.

We are studying mutations that have built up in cells to understand how and why they cause health problems like cancer, brain diseases and aging.

#### **Does the patient have to take part?**

No. It is up to the patient to decide whether or not they would like to take part. If he/she does take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. The patient will be free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. This will not affect the standard of care that the patient receives.

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## **What will happen if the patient takes part?**

If the patient takes part in this study, he/she will be asked to provide a sample of *blood/saliva (spit)/skin*. From this sample we will make special cells called 'stem cells' that can be grown and kept indefinitely. These cells will be made at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK, and stored in a cell bank. The cells will be studied in many different ways to find out why damage to DNA builds up in your cells. From time to time, we may make contact with the patient's doctor to find out whether his/her health has changed.

## **What will we have to do?**

The doctor will talk to you and the patient about all that will happen to make sure that you understand everything and give you time to ask questions. If you are happy for the patient to take part, you will be asked to sign a form in the presence of the doctor to give consent for the patient to be involved in the study. A doctor or nurse will take a sample of his/her *blood/saliva (spit)/skin* at a time that is convenient for both of you, which will be used to make these special stem cells and to study the DNA changes.

All that is required in this study is a blood/saliva (spit)/skin sample from the patient.

## **Will the patient's taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Yes. All information about people taking part in this study will be kept confidential. Further details are included in Part 2.

**This completes Part 1 of the Information Sheet.**

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## **Part II**

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The study will not benefit the patient directly, but we may be able to understand in more detail, how his/her genetic makeup actually causes the symptoms of the condition that he/she has. This may not lead directly to new treatments, but will be a crucial step towards it.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

The risks associated with blood sampling are very small as the procedures are done under sterile conditions and by experienced doctors or nurses. Nevertheless, mild bruising can sometimes result.

The risks associated with taking a skin sample include some pain or bruising around the site of the biopsy. We will make every attempt to gather a skin biopsy as easily and painlessly as possible. The patient will be given a local anesthetic by injection to numb the biopsy site. When the area is numb, a special punch biopsy instrument will be used to collect a 2mm disc of skin. However, we are trying very hard to reduce the likelihood of requesting a skin biopsy sample and will only do so if there is no other option available for making stem cells from a blood/spit sample. If it is necessary to obtain a skin biopsy sample, we will try to arrange a convenient time to take the sample, for example, if he/she were undergoing a general anaesthetic for another reason.

Although it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility that he/she could be identified by studying the genetic information. However, this is only possible if this information is matched to other personal, identifiable data.

### **What will happen to any samples the patient gives?**

We will send his/her anonymised blood/skin/saliva (spit) samples to researchers at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Hinxton, Cambridge, UK. These researchers will extract cells and make them into special cells or stem cells that can grow indefinitely. They will look for any patterns of damage in the DNA of the patient's cells.

When a sample is provided, we shall also record some relevant clinical details in our password-protected records. All these details will be stored securely and be accessible only to study members. The patient's personal identifiable information will not be shared with researchers outside of the study team.

On arrival in the lab every sample will be given an anonymous code and stored in locked freezers in tubes showing only the anonymous code. When genetic and other results are obtained, they will be associated only with this code, so no one outside the study team can trace the results to the patient.

When the special stem cells are made from the patient's sample, they will be stored in a regulated cell storage facility. These anonymised stem cells will become part of a useful resource for research studies. Only the patient's medical condition, age and whether the patient is male or female will be associated with the anonymised stem cells.

### **What information will be produced by this study?**

It is very important that you consider the type of information which will be produced by this study: From the sample that the patient provides us with, we will make cells that will be kept indefinitely. This resource will be used to understand why damage is building up in his/her cells. We will study the patient's cells in many different ways, including looking at the DNA of these cells to study the type of damage that is occurring.

To enable the patient's contribution to provide the greatest benefit to research we would like to be able to share:

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- 1) anonymised genetic data with other researchers. The information we obtain about the patient's DNA will be placed in a secure electronic data archive called the European phenome-Genome Archive (EGA) (a database). The EGA is kept and maintained by the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) in Hinxton, Cambridge, UK.
- 2) anonymised stem cells with a regulated cell storage facility.

These data will be completely unconnected to the patient's name or other traceable identifier and will be stored for an indefinite period of time. Access to this anonymised information is limited to legitimate researchers.

Although it is not the main purpose of this study, we may find information about DNA changes that can be passed on in his/her family. These changes may affect the patient's risk of developing other, unrelated disease. However, the techniques we are using are NOT accurate enough to be used to diagnose these genetic changes. Because of this, we will *not report any genetic changes that we find that are unrelated to the patient's known disorder.*

### **Will the patient's participation in this study be kept confidential?**

If the patient joins the study, some parts of their medical records may be looked at by responsible and authorised clinicians/researchers. The data collected for the study will be stored in a password-protected electronic data archive and only looked at by authorised persons involved in running the research. They may also be looked at by authorised persons from the Addenbrooke's Hospital NHS Trust Research and Development Department to check that the study is being carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to the patient and nothing that could reveal the patient's identity will be shared outside the research site.

Procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of personal, identifiable data are compliant with the UK Data Protection Act 1998.

Once a sample is collected it will be anonymised. Throughout the processing and handling of the patient's sample, it will always be anonymised. The stem cells produced from the patient's sample and the genetic data produced will also remain anonymised.

The anonymised stem cells and the anonymised genetic data will be kept indefinitely in regulated facilities accessible only by legitimate researchers.

Results from this study may be published in scientific journals or presented at conferences in a way that will not identify the patient, unless very specific consent has been sought to do so from you and the patient.

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results will be published in scientific journals and/or presented at scientific meetings. When data are published or presented they will be completely anonymous.

The raw genetic information that is produced by analysing the patient's DNA will be deposited and stored indefinitely in a central electronic data archive (a database). This archive enables anonymised data to be shared with the research community. The archive is called the European Genome-phenome Archive (EGA) and is run by the European Bioinformatics Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK. Access to the anonymised information stored in this archive will only be accepted via applications from appropriately qualified researchers who sign a legally-binding Data Access Agreement in which they commit to:

- a) use the data only for research purposes;
- b) protect the data confidentiality;
- c) provide appropriate data security;
- d) not attempt to identify individual participants from whom data were obtained;

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- e) not redistribute the data or any parts of the data that could be used to identify the research participant.

For the data to be useful to researchers, some information about the medical problem being studied will also be linked to the genetic information. Personal identifiable data such as the patient's name, date of birth and address will not be shared with researchers.

## **What will happen if I don't want the patient to carry on with the study?**

If you withdraw the patient from the study, we will retain any data and results of analyses that we have obtained up until the time of the withdrawal. If you request us to do so, we will destroy any identifiable data and any remaining samples but we cannot destroy the stem cells we have already made.

The standard of the patient's medical care will not be affected should you wish to withdraw the patient from the study at any time.

## **What if there is a problem?**

### Complaints:

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. You can contact the researchers on 01223-834244 (ask for Dr. Serena Nik-Zainal) or by email at [signatures@sanger.ac.uk](mailto:signatures@sanger.ac.uk). If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through the Addenbrooke's Hospitals NHS Trust Complaints Procedure. Details can be obtained from Addenbrooke's Hospital Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 01223-216756

### Harm:

In the event that something does go wrong during the research study, we have appropriate insurance. If appropriate, the normal *[National Health Service]* complaints mechanisms will also be available to you.

## **Will the patient's GP be informed of my taking part?**

Yes, if you give permission for this to happen.

## **What if relevant new information becomes available?**

Occasionally, advances in the technology used to assess the patient's data may reveal new information that may be relevant to the patient. If this occurs, we will make every effort to inform the patient's doctor/health professional involved in his/her care about it.

## **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The study is organised by medical doctors and researchers at Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. It is funded by research grants from the Wellcome Trust.

## **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been given a favourable ethical opinion by the National Research Ethics Service Committee East of England - Norfolk.

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## **Expenses and payments**

If you decide to take part in the study, you/your child will not receive payment but we will pay reasonable travel expenses.

## **Further information and contact details**

You are welcome to address further enquiries to the following doctor in the study team:

*Dr Serena Nik-Zainal  
Wellcome Trust Intermediate Clinical Fellow  
Honorary Clinical Geneticist  
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute  
Cambridge CB10 1SA  
United Kingdom  
e-mail: [signatures@sanger.ac.uk](mailto:signatures@sanger.ac.uk)  
Phone number: 01223 494947*

## **Thank you.**

We would like to thank you for considering taking part in our research and for taking the time to read about this study. If you now go on to participate in the study, you will be given a copy of this information sheet and of your signed consent form to keep for your records.