Oncology bulletin
May 2025

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice on Oncology

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Cancer Treatments

Adaptative Radiation Therapy
Adaptive radiation therapy (ART) represents a significant advancement in radiation oncology, allowing real-time adjustments during treatment to enhance the precision of radiation. Both cone beam computed tomography (CBCT)-guided and MRI-guided ART have shown promising results in treating various cancers. Despite these advancements, challenges remain, including the necessity for further clinical validation and the optimization of workflows to facilitate broader implementation.
Yirong Liu et al
Advances in Oncology 5 (1) 1-13

Determining the optimal use of approved drugs in oncology
This Personal View aims to inform academic trialists in how to conceive and prioritise questions aimed at determining the optimal use of drugs, taking into account the perspectives of patients, clinicians, and trial funders, to maximise the chances of successful delivery and impact for patients globally.
Gauthier Boucheet et al
Lancet Oncology 26 (5) e282–e294

Combined immune checkpoint inhibitors and ablative radiotherapy in metastatic cancers: a meta-analysis of prospective clinical trials
This study provides a comprehensive view of all prospective clinical trials and pooled analyses of important clinical outcomes. The combination seemed safe with promising outcomes. Higher doses of radiotherapy and combined-target ICI were identified to correlate with longer survival, although with a higher incidence of adverse events with the latter
Eduardo Urias et al
BMJ Oncology 2025 e000732 (open access)

Diagnosis

Suspected cancer: recognition and referral
NICE guideline NG12
This guideline covers identifying children, young people and adults with symptoms that could be caused by cancer. It outlines appropriate investigations in primary care, and selection of people to refer for a specialist opinion. It aims to help people understand what to expect if they have symptoms that may suggest cancer.
Suspected cancer: recognition and referral NICE guideline NG12

Low-dose CT for lung cancer screening in a high-risk population (SUMMIT): a prospective, longitudinal cohort study
Low-dose CT screening reduces lung cancer mortality. In advance of planned national lung cancer screening programmes, research is needed to inform policies regarding implementation. We aimed to assess the implementation of low-dose CT for lung cancer screening in a high-risk population and to validate a multicancer early detection blood test.
Amyn Bhamani et al
Lancet Oncology 26 (5) 609-619 (open access)

Local anaesthetic transperineal biopsy versus transrectal prostate biopsy in prostate cancer detection (TRANSLATE): a multicentre, randomised, controlled trial
Prostate cancer diagnosis requires biopsy, traditionally performed under local anaesthetic with ultrasound guidance via a transrectal approach (TRUS). Local anaesthetic ultrasound-guided transperineal biopsy (LATP) is gaining popularity in this setting; however, there is uncertainty regarding prostate sampling, infection rates, tolerability, side-effects, and cost-effectiveness. TRANSLATE was a randomised clinical trial that aimed to compare detection of Gleason Grade Group (GGG) 2 or higher prostate cancer, side-effects, tolerability, and patient-reported outcomes, after LATP versus TRUS biopsy.
Richard J Bryant et al
Lancet Oncology 26 (5) 583 595 (open access)

General

Integration of Early Palliative Care in Personalized Cancer Care
Early palliative care is associated with an improvement in quality of life, a decrease in depression, anxiety and aggressive end-of-life care, and improved survival. Barriers to early palliative care include patient and provider misconceptions, limited resources, and a lack of understanding of optimal timing of referral and components of care.
Carley Mitchell et al
Advances in Oncology 5 (1) 65-71

Understanding the accuracy of body temperature measurements in patient triage during cancer treatment: a retrospective audit
Following concerns from triage nurses at a regional cancer centre that home-measured temperatures were not being accurately reported, the authors carried out a retrospective audit to quantify differences between reported body temperature at home and on arrival at the triage unit.
Clair Merriman et al
Cancer Nursing Practice 24 (3) Understanding the accuracy

Role of cancer nurses in preventive interventions for cardiovascular effects induced by cancer treatment
This article outlines the cardiovascular and metabolic effects that can be induced by cancer treatment, and explains the important role of cancer nurses in risk assessment, monitoring and secondary prevention of these effects.
Sara Faithfull et al
Cancer Nursing Practice 24 (3) Role of cancer nurses

Large language models in oncology: a review
This narrative review serves as a non-technical primer for clinicians to understand, evaluate, and participate as active users whocan inform the design and iterative improvement of LLM technologies deployed in oncology settings. While LLMs are not intended to replace oncologists, they can serve as powerful tools to augment clinical expertise and patient-centred care, reinforcing their role as a valuable adjunct in the evolving landscape of oncology.
David Chen et al
BMJ Oncology 4 e000759 (open access)

Incidence and prevalence of antimicrobial resistance in outpatients with cancer: a multicentre, retrospective, cohort study
Infections are the second leading cause of death in patients with cancer and are often caused by resistant bacteria. However, the frequency of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in outpatients with cancer is not well understood. We aimed to compare the frequency of AMR bacterial pathogens in outpatients with and without cancer.
Vikas Gupta et al
Lancet Oncology 26 (5) 620-628

Specific Cancers

Hysterectomy or not for borderline ovarian tumor in menopause?
This study aims to assess the impact of hysterectomy on survival outcomes in postmenopausal women with BOT.
Diego Raimondoa et al

Gynecologic Oncology 196 152–159

Nutritional management in mesothelioma: qualitative insights into health care professionals' perceptions and experiences
Despite high rates of malnutrition and known links between malnutrition and adverse patient outcomes, nutrition support for patients with cancer is inconsistent. In mesothelioma, nutritional management is key for optimising physical functioning, quality of life and survival.
Leah Taylor et al
Cancer Nursing Practice 24 (3) Nutritional management in mesothelioma

Providing a Prostate Cancer Detection and Prevention Method With Developed Deep Learning Approach
The histopathology images from a treatment center to diagnose prostate cancer are used with the help of deep learning methods, considering the two characteristics of Tile and Grad-CAM. /e approach of this research is to present a prostate cancer diagnosis model to achieve proper performance from histopathology images with the help of a developed deep learning method based on the manifold model.
Alireza Zarei et al
Prostate Cancer 2025 2019841

Survivorship

Disease-free survival as a surrogate for overall survival in early-stage pancreatic cancer trials: a correlation meta-analysis
This study evaluates the strength and consistency of DFS as a surrogate for OS in early-stage PC trials.
Luís Felipe Leite et al
BMJ Oncology e000732 (open access)

Protocol: what are the ethnic inequities in care outcomes related to haematological malignancies, treated with transplant/cellular therapies, in the UK? A systematic review
Research into the determinates of treatment efficacy, and access to treatments, is key to ensuring equal benefit across patients and patient safety. With this, there are concerns about the small representation of minority groups in related research. We aim to report on the current knowledge to guide future research.
Samuel Cusworth et al
BMJ Open 5 e099354 (open access)