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Powerful new endomicroscope trial commences at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Baltimore, USA: Johns Hopkins Hospital is now actively recruiting patients for an improved cancer diagnosis trial using flexible endomicroscopes. The purpose of the trial, named "Confocal Endomicroscopy for Barrett's Esophagus (CEBE)", is to determine if confocal laser endomicroscopy (CLE) can improve detection of Barrett's esophagus, dysplasia, and early esophageal cancer.

This is a US based single centre study that builds on work already completed by Johns Hopkins and presented at DDW in May. It is a precursor to US based multi-centre trials in this and other applications.

The CEBE trial is an interventional diagnostic randomised cross over design. This is a robust clinical trial design that allows investigators to examine whether the current "standard of care" endoscopic procedure (with randomly taken biopsies) or an endomicroscope procedure with targeted biopsies provides better early stage cancer detection outcomes for patients with Barrett's Esophagus.

The primary outcome measure for the trial is the diagnostic yield for neoplasia of CLE verses standard endoscopy.

The secondary outcome measure is the reduction in the number of biopsies taken during endoscopy.

A total of 80 patients will be enrolled in the study, which is expected to take several months to complete.

In keeping with recent world health organisation guidelines, the trial has been registered with an appropriate trial registry. Details can thus be found at www.clinicaltrials.gov (trial identifier reference NCT00487695).

Background

Barrett's Esophagus is a change in the lining of the esophagus that is associated with an increased risk of aggressive esophageal cancer. Patient's diagnosed with Barrett's Esophagus undergo regular endoscopic surveillance procedures to create a good probability of finding any cancerous changes very early. If caught early radical surgery can be avoided.

Further information:

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