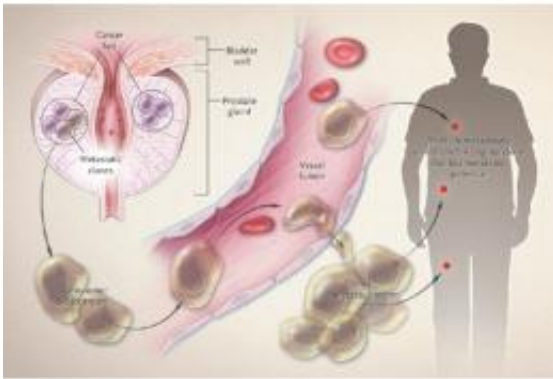


Focal therapy and prostate cancer

October 22 2009



A recent study by Liu and colleagues has shown that metastases in prostate cancer have a common origin — that is, they originate from the same clone. If the single lesion harboring this metastatic clone could be accurately identified and then targeted, it seems likely that the side effects of treatment for prostate cancer would be reduced. The other lesions (depicted as purple cells in the prostate) would undergo surveillance.

(PhysOrg.com) -- UCL researcher Hashim Uddin Ahmed is conducting a series of world-first trials into an alternative form of treatment for prostate cancer.

Prostate [cancer](#) is the most common cancer affecting men in the UK, with conventional treatment for the disease causing many distressing side

effects.

Mr Ahmed is a Medical Research Council Clinical Research Fellow in the UCL Division of Surgery and Interventional Science. Results from the groundbreaking trials he has undertaken have shown that one-third of men with [prostate cancer](#) might benefit from high-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU).

The [New England Journal of Medicine](#) today published a commentary by Mr Ahmed about his work in this area. Mr Ahmed explains his research below.

“Prostate Cancer affects 500,000 men around the world every year. The incidence is increasing because we are detecting lower risk cancers in younger men at an earlier stage.

“Many of these men have treatment which gives them very little benefit in terms of life expectancy, but subjects them to considerable harm. One in two are impotent, one in ten need to wear pads because of urine leakage and one in ten have back passage problems.

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More information: content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/361/17/1704

Provided by University College London ([news](#) : [web](#))

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