

# Patient-derived organoids may help personalize the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers

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A new *BJS (British Journal of Surgery)* review highlights the potential of 3D organoid models derived from patient cells to help personalize therapy for individuals with gastrointestinal cancers.

Organoids—artificially grown masses of cells or tissues that resemble organs—are being used by researchers in a range of biomedical fields as they study various disease states and work to develop potential treatments. Organoid culture methods have been established for healthy and diseased tissues from oesophagus, stomach, intestine, pancreas, [bile duct](#), and liver. Because organoids can be generated with high efficiency and speed from patient samples, they can serve as a personal [cancer](#) model that can guide clinical decision-making.

"Research using organoids has already unraveled so many of the underlying causes of cancer. But, for me, their real promise lies in their capacity to predict [treatment](#) response," said lead author Merel Aberle, MD, of Maastricht University, in The Netherlands. "In future, organoids could be used to find the best treatment combination for every patient, thereby increasing response rates, but also reducing the side-effects unnecessary treatment may cause. I hope that this review inspires more surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, and other healthcare professionals to use this model and set up collaborative clinical trials."

**More information:** M. R. Aberle et al, Patient-derived organoid

models help define personalized management of gastrointestinal cancer, *British Journal of Surgery* (2018). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10726](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10726)

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