

Early clinical trial tests treatment strategy for pancreatic cancer

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Axial CT image with i.v. contrast. Macrocystic adenocarcinoma of the pancreatic head. Credit: public domain

Pancreatic cancer carries a poor prognosis, and it often goes undetected until advanced stages. A new *BJS* (*British Journal of Surgery*) study indicates that a certain cocktail of chemotherapy drugs may be a safe

and effective treatment option for patients with a metastatic form of the disease.

The study, which was an early-phase 46-patient trial intended to provide preliminary results regarding safety and efficacy, tested a strategy involving injections of paclitaxel into the abdomen and injections of gemcitabine and nab-paclitaxel (a combination of paclitaxel and a protein called albumin) into the blood.

The treatment had acceptable toxicities, and patients had a [median survival time](#) of 14.5 months, with a 1-year survival rate of 60.9%.

"Now, a phase 3 study to compare survival outcomes between this therapy and standard chemotherapy has been launched," said senior author Sohei Satoi, MD, of Kansai Medical University, in Japan.

More information: S. Yamada et al, Phase I/II study of adding intraperitoneal paclitaxel in patients with pancreatic cancer and peritoneal metastasis, *British Journal of Surgery* (2020). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.11792](#)

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