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Press release for immediate release

MyPEBS Study (My Personal Breast Screening) For a personalised cancer screening

Brussels, 25 October 2017 - The Jules Bordet Institute, an integrated centre in the fight against cancer and a reference in Belgium and abroad, is participating in a study with the potential to modify the breast cancer screening programme. The importance of screening for breast cancer is now beyond question, but are the mass screening programmes in place today sufficient? Do they fulfill the promises made when first introduced at national and European level? At the Jules Bordet Cancer Prevention and Screening Clinic we believe the screening programmes could be more effective by taking the individual risk factor into account. That is the hypothesis that the new European study MyPebs, coordinated by France (Unicancer and the Gustave Roussy Institute), aims to test.

Why the MyPebs study

Current mass screening programmes (mammography every 2 years for women aged between 50 and 70) are based on studies carried out in the 1980s. Since then studies have shown that the impact on mortality is less than expected and that a number of deficiencies relating to screening were underestimated: over-diagnosis (the fact of finding and treating tumours that would not have posed a problem – 1 in 5 of cancers detected), interval cancers (cancers that arise between two mammographies or that were not detected – ¼ of cancers diagnosed) and, finally, false positives (women called back for additional examinations that do not reveal a cancer –10% of women screened).

"We can no longer ignore these data. Today we know that we are not all equal in the face of cancer: the risk varies considerably from one individual to another depending on intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Consequently, the notion of a screening that takes into account the level of risk could reduce significantly the deficiencies of the present strategy, while at the same time helping to reduce mortality linked to breast cancers," explains Dr Jean-Benoît Burriion, Head of the Prevention and Screening Clinic at the Jules Bordet Institute

The study objectives

1. Compare the strategy per risk stratum (based solely on age) in terms of impact on the incidence of so-called advanced tumours (poorer survival prognoses).

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Institut Jules Bordet, Association Hospitalière de Bruxelles régie par la loi du 8 juillet 1976
Jules Bordet Instituut, Ziekenhuisvereniging van Brussel onderworpen aan de wet van 8 juli 1976

2. Compare the deficiencies in terms of over-diagnosis, false positives and interval cancers
3. Measure the psychological acceptability of the strategy per risk stratum.
4. Compare the performance of the two strategies in terms of cost effectiveness.

The trial principle

- Recruitment of 85,000 women in the study's 5 participating countries.
- A randomised study staggered over 7 years (launch in January 2018)
- A control group (present strategy) and experimental group (assignment of the volunteers to 4 different risk strata with screening programme adapted to each stratum). Definition of four sub-groups of women according to 4 levels of risk of developing a breast cancer and testing of screening programmes adapted according to the groups.

If you would like to know more please contact us!

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About the Jules Bordet Institute

An integrated multidisciplinary centre, unique in Belgium, the Jules Bordet Institute is an autonomous hospital devoted exclusively to cancer.

For more than 75 years, the Jules Bordet Institute has been providing its patients with diagnostic and therapeutic strategies at the forefront of progress to prevent, detect and actively combat cancer. The Institute pursues three missions: care, research and teaching. Its international reputation attracts the world's leading cancer experts. Its spirit of innovation has enabled it to participate in the development and discovery of major new methods of diagnosis and treatment with the aim of bringing the findings to the patient as rapidly as possible.

In May 2013, the Jules Bordet Institute received official accreditation and designation from the OECI (Organisation of European Cancer Institutes) as a "Comprehensive Cancer Centre", a quality label reserved for multidisciplinary cancer care institutions whose activities include research and teaching. This is a first for Belgium.

The Jules Bordet Institute is a member of the Iris and Université Libre de Bruxelles hospital networks. With its 160 beds dedicated exclusively to cancer patients, every year the Institute treats more than 6,000 in-patients, 12,000 out-patients and provides 75,000 consultations. To effectively meet future demographic and scientific developments, the Institute is planning to build a new Institut Bordet on the ULB university campus in Anderlecht, next to the Erasmus Hospital. Inauguration is planned for 2018.

- Jules Bordet Institute website: www.bordet.be
- To consult the Jules Bordet Institute presentation brochure, go to:
<http://www.bordet.be/fr/presentation/brochure/index.html>
- To view the Jules Bordet Institute presentation video, go to:
<http://www.bordet.be/fr/presentation/organigr/textes/bordet.htm>

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About the Friends of the Bordet Institute

The Friends of the Jules Bordet Institute is a non-profit-making organisation with the sole aim of supporting and financing research at the Jules Bordet Institute, a cancer centre that is a reference in Belgium and abroad. As the largest private donor to the Bordet Institute, "The Friends" have donated almost 12 million euros in the past five years.

Considerable progress has been made in the field of oncology in recent years. Our understanding of the biological origin of cancer is growing all the time. Whereas 10 years ago we spoke of the microscopic analysis of tumours, today we speak of genetic profile, of sequencing, etc. Dozens of new molecules and markers have been developed, permitting the advent of personalised treatment. This progress has to a large extent been made possible through the extraordinary technological progress of recent years. But these new techniques that now enable us to probe the infinitesimally small are increasingly expensive.

For more than 40 years, the help of the "Friends" has enabled the Jules Bordet Institute to pursue its research using the most advanced technologies, thereby providing patients with the most innovative screening and treatment techniques. Techniques that generate life and hope.

By helping and supporting "The Friends of the Bordet Institute" you are participating in the many research programmes that they support and that all pursue a single aim: victory for life.

To find out more about the association The Friends of the Jules Bordet Institute, go to the website www.amis-bordet.be
To find out more about the "101 tables pour la vie", go to the website www.101tables.com