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INNOVATION AND EXPERTISE FOR INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT

The 30 November 2022 – **Prostate cancer currently affects 1 in 10 men and remains the principal cancer among mature men. Thanks to the expertise of the multidisciplinary teams and the effectiveness of innovative techniques, the Jules Bordet Institute - the Cancer Centre of the Brussels University Hospital (H.U.B.) - is able to propose a targeted and highly personalised treatment for cancer patients. Thanks in particular to the Jules Bordet Association's support in buying state-of-the-art equipment, the Jules Bordet Institute is today a pioneer, both nationally and internationally, in treating prostate cancer patients and in research in the field of screening, diagnosis and treatment.**

Risk-adapted screening: a strategy that is proving its value

Prostate cancer screening permits a considerable decrease in the associated mortality. At present, the most effective method is the PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) test. This is a non-invasive, low cost blood test that measures the PSA level and is a reliable indicator of the presence of a tumour. Depending on the test result, an MRI can be prescribed in certain cases followed by a prostate biopsy (taking of one or more prostate tissue fragments for analysis) to confirm the result.

A key public health issue, the early detection of prostate cancer was placed on the European Commission's agenda in 2022, resulting in the first European risk-adapted screening programme. A programme based on the general population with the flexibility to be modified to reflect regional variations in prostate cancer risk, while also taking healthcare resources into account.

Prostate biopsy, a key examination in terms of diagnosis

A prostate biopsy is recommended if the screening tests show any suspicion of a tumour. This analysis is essential both to confirm the diagnosis and to measure tumour size and aggressiveness. This targeted biopsy is possible thanks to highly sophisticated image fusion software that combines previously produced MRI images with the 3D ultrasound image. This new imaging technique, the result of research by the Jules Bordet Institute teams, makes it possible to effectively detect a cancer and its severity. Thanks to this diagnostic precision, it is possible to provide the patient with personalised care and treatment that is adapted to his cancer, thereby avoiding any undertreatment or overtreatment.

The improved patient comfort also includes personalised care with a dedicated 30-minute session with a urologist or specialised nurse at the time of the targeted biopsy. This permits a beneficial exchange that helps reduce anxiety and pain during this examination.

An ultra-targeted and personalised treatment

The Jules Bordet Institute, a pioneer in prostate cancer treatment through laparoscopic and then robotic surgery, has developed an expertise in leaving the prostate organ intact thanks to focal therapy. When the tumour is identifiable, focal therapy makes it possible to destroy the cancer while leaving the rest of the organ intact. This precision operation is possible thanks to a system of 3D cartography coupled with these tools for minimally invasive focal therapy. A treatment that is highly targeted and personalised for each patient.

Unique in Belgium, this system has the benefit of reducing conventional side effects that generate discomfort, such as incontinence or functional or sexual troubles linked to surgery or radiotherapy.

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Equipped with devices and technologies at the leading edge of innovation, some of which are available only at the hospital, the Jules Bordet Institute guarantees high quality care that is increasingly adapted to the uniqueness of each patient by virtue of an approach based on multidisciplinary and comprehensive expertise.

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ABOUT THE JULES BORDET INSTITUTE

An integrated multidisciplinary centre, the only one of its kind in Belgium, the Jules Bordet Institute is an autonomous hospital dedicated exclusively to cancerous diseases.

During the past 80 years the Jules Bordet Institute has been offering its patients diagnostic and treatment strategies at the leading edge of progress to prevent, detect and actively fight cancer. The Institute pursues three missions: care, research and teaching. The Institute's international reputation attracts leading experts in the field of cancer. Its spirit of innovation has enabled it to participate in the development and discovery of new methods of diagnosis and major treatment innovations, with the aim of translating the results into improved patient care as rapidly as possible.

In May 2028, the Jules Border Institute was officially awarded, for the second time, OECl (Organisation of European Cancer Institutes) accreditation as a "Comprehensive Cancer Center", a quality label reserved for multidisciplinary cancer care institutions that combine research and training. The Jules Bordet Institute is the only Comprehensive Cancer Centre with OECl accreditation in Belgium.

On 28 November 2021, the Jules Bordet Institute opened its new building on the ULB university campus in Anderlecht with 80,000 m² fully dedicated to leading edge cancer care, research and training, as well as a patient well-being centre. It offers 250 hospitalisation beds and 43 day hospitalisation beds.

The Jules Bordet Institute is also part of the H.U.B., the University Hospital of Brussels, which includes the Erasmus Hospital, the Jules Bordet Institute and the Queen Fabiola Children's Hospital. Thanks to new investments, this internationally renowned university hospital group is able to guarantee high quality care accessible to all combined with excellence in research and training.

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ABOUT THE JULES BORDET ASSOCIATION

For the past 50 years cancer research at the Bordet Institute has been inseparable from the Jules Bordet Association (formerly The Friends of the Bordet Institute). As the Institute's biggest private-sector donor, this non-profit organization has raised more than 100 million euros over the past 50 years with which to finance hundreds of research projects and achieve major progress for the benefit of patients.

True to its mission, the Jules Bordet Association has already granted 18 million euros for research activities at the new hospital, including almost 6 million euros to enable the Bordet Institute to purchase the 1.5 Tesla MRI-Linac and the simulator MRI.

To find out more about the Jules Bordet Association visit the website at www.association-jules-bordet.be

ABOUT THE H.U.B

The Hôpital Universitaire de Bruxelles (H.U.B) is the academic hospital of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), which unites the Jules Bordet institute, the Erasme Hospital and the Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital (HUDERF) since 2021.

As an international reference center, located in the heart of the Brussels Region, the H.U.B offers high quality general, oncological and pediatric care.

This excellent care, accessible to all, is enriched and sustained by a dual approach of scientific research and teaching for the caregivers of tomorrow.

In 2022, the H.U.B. is composed of more than 6,000 employees who share the following values: Interest of the patient, Team spirit, Commitment, Solidarity, Diversity and Inclusion, and the principle of Free enquiry.