

PRESS

RELEASE



HÔPITAL UNIVERSITAIRE
DE BRUXELLES
ACADEMISCH ZIEKENHUIS
BRUSSEL



"EARLY PANC": PANCREATIC CANCER, AN ESSENTIAL SCREENING FOR PERSONS AT RISK

17 November 2022, world pancreatic cancer day, is the ideal occasion to get screened. The aim of a personalised screening is to inform and raise awareness among the general public of a cancer that remains poorly understood as the number of cases continues to rise. It is now the fourth most common cancer worldwide.

This silent and progressive disease is today one of the most feared as it is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, thereby complicating treatment and making the survival prognosis very bleak.

Early screening can increase the survival rate

The aim of screening for pancreatic cancer is to detect tumours or their precursors at an earlier stage among individuals at risk of developing the disease. This can make it possible to increase the option of surgery from 20% to 75% of cases with the hope of increasing the five-year survival rate.

Pancreatic cancer is a cancer with a poor prognosis. What is more, its incidence is increasing with 10-12 cases per 100,000 population in Belgium. Like colon cancer, which develops from polyps, pancreatic cancer develops from precancerous lesions, some in the form of pancreatic cysts. In 85% of cases the pancreatic cancer diagnosis comes too late, which explains the very bleak prognosis. At present, only 10% of patients who receive a pancreatic cancer diagnosis survive for five years and just 20% of pancreatic cancers are localised and can be operated on with a view to healing.

Who should be screened for pancreatic cancer?

- All persons aged over 50 with a family history of pancreatic cancer, that is, with at least two first degree relatives (parents, children, brothers/sisters) who have had pancreatic cancer or at least three relatives (irrespective of degree of kinship) who have had pancreatic cancer.
- All persons aged over 30 with a chronic hereditary pancreatitis, whether or not with cystic fibrosis.
- All persons with a hereditary predisposition to cancers (colon, breast, ovaries, and melanoma) with identified mutations and at least one relative diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Who is organising the screening?

At the Brussels University Hospital (H.U.B.) we offer a Fast Track care route for pancreatic cancer diagnosis/screening for all persons with a clinical suspicion (alarm symptom or above risk categories) or an unexplained radiological anomaly.

Practicalities

On the occasion of this world pancreatic cancer day we stress the importance of early screening and diagnosis. This is why the Brussels University Hospital (H.U.B.) has organised a consultation specifically dedicated to the screening and rapid diagnosis of pancreatic cancer at the sites of the Erasmus Hospital and the Jules Bordet Institute. At these consultations you will be informed of all aspects of the problem and your risk can be assessed in terms of genetic factors.

Do you want to get screened?

Erasmus Hospital:

- Gastroenterology and Medico-Surgical Pancreatology Consultation: +32 (0)2 555 35 04 – +32 (0)2 555 43 50
- Digestive Oncology and Digestive Tumour Screening Consultation: +32 (0)2 555 39 40

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Jules Bordet Institute:

- Digestive Oncology and Pancreatic Tumour Screening Consultation: +32 (0)2 541 34 80
- Onco-Genetic Consultation: +32 (0)2 555 64 30 – +32 (0)2 555 36 48 – +32 (0)2 555 41 92

Lothier polyclinic: +32 (0)2 221 87 11

PRESS CONTACTS

Press responsible: Alexandra Cazan

E-mail : alexandra.cazan@bordet.be
communication@hubruxelles.be

Tel : +32 (0)2 541 38 89

Mob : +32 (0) 493 16 74 79

Press officer: Gabrielle Vanhoudenhove

E-mail : gabrielle.vanhoudenhove@erasme.ulb.ac.be
communication@hubruxelles.be

Tel : +32 (0)2 555 83 95

ABOUT 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.

www.bordet.be

ABOUT ERASMUS HOSPITAL

The Erasmus Hospital is located on the Erasmus hospital-faculty campus, which includes the Faculty of Medicine (about 3500 students), the Faculty of Motor Sciences (about 1100 students) and the School of Public Health (about 600 students). Opened in 1977 and with a capacity of 1,048 beds, the hospital receives 25,000 to 30,000 inpatients annually and has 350,000 to 400,000 consultations.

More than 4,000 members of staff, in 80 different professions, contribute on a daily basis to providing care under the sign of ambition, excellence and well-being. The Lothier Polyclinic and 2 external centres (the Traumatology and Rehabilitation Centre - CTR and the Geriatric Revalidation Centre - CRG) complete the care offer.

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ABOUT THE H.U.B

The Brussels University Hospital (H.U.B.) is the Academic Hospital of the Brussels Free University (ULB) that since 2021 has grouped together the Jules Bordet Institute, the Erasmus Hospital and the Queen Fabiola Children's University Hospital (HUDERF). As a reference centre at international level, located at the heart of the Brussels Region, the H.U.B. provides general, oncological and paediatric care of the highest quality.

Accessible to all, the excellence of care is enriched and nourished by a combination of scientific research and the training of our future nurses.

In 2022, the H.U.B. has a staff of 6,000, each and every one inspired by the values of Patients' Interests, Team Spirit, Commitment, Solidarity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Free Inquiry.

www.hubruelles.be