Overview

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Executive summary

MyPeBS is an innovative international research project, funded by the European Union (EU), gathering leading international breast cancer researchers and experts. The multidisciplinary project team of clinicians, radiologists, epidemiologists, geneticists, social scientists, and health economists will work in close collaboration with healthcare providers and advocacy groups to address the big questions about the future of breast screening.

Organised breast screening programmes have played an important role in the improvement of breast cancer survival rates by allowing treatment to begin at a much earlier stage. However, these screening programmes have experienced several disadvantages such as relatively frequent false positive recalls, a small lifetime risk of radiation-induced cancer and overdiagnosis, which has led to increasing criticism of the current “one-size-fits-all” approach to breast screening via mammography.

For current breast screening programmes, aside from those women at very high-risk of breast cancer, age is the sole risk factor considered when inviting women to enter the programme. Advances in the understanding of breast cancer biology, risk assessment, and imaging have resulted in better tools which could replace the current one-size-fits-all approach by extending to the whole population the personalised model used for women at a high-risk. A more personalised screening strategy, based on an individual woman’s risk, would give tailored recommendations on when to start, when to stop, and how often to screen women within the breast screening programme.

MyPeBS (My Personal Breast Screening) is a unique international project that will investigate this issue and consider whether a more personalised form of breast screening could be a better option for women.
Breast cancer is a major concern for all of society. According to the latest available data, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide. In the European Union alone, it is estimated that there are about 365,000 new breast cancer cases and 91,000 deaths due to breast cancer every year. Early diagnosis is crucial to getting the best care for breast cancer and reducing the number of breast cancer deaths. Most countries in Europe try to spot breast cancer early through organised screening programmes, which invite women to get an X-ray taken of their breast. This method, known as mammography, is widely used in breast screening as it is so far the only tool that has been shown to help prevent deaths from breast cancer. However, despite the proven benefits of mammography, this method also carries with it some risks, which need to be properly communicated to women.

**Context**

MyPeBS will compare the current standard of “one size fits all” breast screening with a more tailored strategy, which screens women at higher risk of breast cancer more often, and women at a lower risk of breast cancer less often. The goal of this study is to answer a simple, yet fundamental, question: is it better to personalise the method and frequency of breast screening based on a woman’s individual risk? As the personal experience of women is central to the study, MyPeBS will investigate whether the personalised approach is more acceptable, paying close attention to the potential extra worry for women that may be caused by knowing their individual breast cancer risk. The project will also evaluate if the resources used with a personalised screening strategy justify the results obtained. Finally, after the results of the study are known, MyPeBS will propose general recommendations for more effective breast cancer screening in Europe.
**MyPeBS in short**

- **26 partners** in the MyPeBS consortium
- **7 participating countries**
- **About 1,000 doctors and scientists** involved in the project
- **85,000 women** to be recruited in the clinical trial
- **8 year project duration** (2018-2025)
- **12.5 millions euros of funding** from the Horizon 2020 programme
Consortium

The MyPeBS project is coordinated by UNICANCER (a large non-profit French national federation of hospitals dedicated to oncology) and involves 26 partners from 7 different countries, including many leading doctors, scientists and prestigious institutions engaged in breast cancer research. At the heart of the project is the randomised clinical trial, which will compare the two breast screening strategies. This trial will be run in 5 countries: France, Italy, United Kingdom, Belgium, and Israel. The study is supervised and controlled by an executive committee, comprised of project partners, and an independent ethics, data monitoring and study conduct committee.

Participants

INSTITUT GUSTAVE ROUSSY, France
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, United Kingdom
THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, United Kingdom
ERASMUS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM ROTTERDAM, Netherlands
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, United Kingdom
STATLIFE, France
UNIVERSITE PARIS 13, France
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INSTITUT JULES BORDET, Belgium
LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY, United Kingdom
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, United States
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COLLEGE NATIONAL DES GENERALISTES ENSEIGNANTS, France
ASSUTA MEDICAL CENTERS LTD, Israel
ISTITUTO SCIENTIFICO ROMAGNOLO PER LO STUDIO E LA CURA DEI TUMORI SRL, Italy
ISTITUTO PER LO STUDIO E LA PREVENZIONE ONCOLOGICA, Italy
UNIVERSITE LYON 1 CLAUDE BERNARD, France
FONDATION ARC POUR LA RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER, France
TOGETHER WE COULD IMPROVE BREAST SCREENING

You can join MyPeBS, a unique trial on personalized breast cancer screening

Contact

Would you like to know more about MyPeBS? Contact us!

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