



NEWS RELEASE – HEALTH

For immediate release

22/09/09

The Diagnostic Clinic introduces screening for Pancreatic Cancer to aid early diagnosis

The Diagnostic Clinic in London's New Cavendish Street, the UK's premier centre for Integrated Medicine, now offers a screening for pancreatic cancer previously unavailable in Britain. The cancer that claimed the life of Patrick Swayze is around the 5th most common in this country and is particularly dangerous because it doesn't cause symptoms until well established. Recognition and diagnosis is often only when the problem has advanced.

While common symptoms include pain in the upper abdomen often radiating to the back and a painless jaundice, it is easy to see how other signs can be confusing. Loss of appetite, weight loss, lethargy and malaise are typical of many cancers. As the pancreas produces insulin, the development of diabetes can be another symptom but may also be unrelated.

Alcohol is known as a risk factor for pancreatitis, but it is controversial whether it actually encourages cancer. Any area that is chronically inflamed does have a tendency to a higher risk of cancer but a direct association is yet to be found. Another known factor is genetic with up to 10% of sufferers having had the disease in their family. Smoking, obesity and helicobacter pylori infection (more commonly associated with stomach ulcers) are also thought to be associated as is gum disease (gingivitis).

When it comes to diagnosis, investigation via ultrasound, MRI and CT can confirm established symptoms. However no specific blood test exists in conventional medicine – until now.

Recent research published in September 2009 in the journal *Cancer Prevention Research** has identified a compound known as micro RNAs which may prove to be a test for early detection.

The Diagnostic Clinic is following this research and is working with the Research Genetic Cancer Centre in Florina, Greece which performs a test principally used to monitor the benefit of cancer treatment. Measuring up to 20 markers in the blood, it has been used in research for many years but not been previously available to the public. Findings suggest that this test may indicate very early development of cancer allowing those with concerns or family history to be given some level of investigative reassurance or trigger more conventional investigation.

Also available through **The Diagnostic Clinic** is the Chemosensitivity Test. For those who have developed cancer this test can illustrate which conventional chemotherapeutic agents may be of benefit even if they are not in the standard national protocols. Much more exciting, this investigation tests about 40 natural compounds against cancer cells from an individual's blood sample allowing Integrated Physicians to suggest Complementary therapies based on the findings rather than on "best guess".

While some cancers are being better treated and detected earlier, many others are still difficult to treat especially if they are not identified early enough. **The Diagnostic Clinic** believes in keeping a close eye on pioneering diagnostic techniques that enable individuals to have choices with regard to Complementary cancer therapy and will continue to search for methods for even the most aggressive of cancers.

-ENDS-

For further information on The Diagnostic Clinic,
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* **MicroRNAs in Plasma of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Patients as Novel Blood-Based Biomarkers of Disease**

Jin Wang, Jinyun Chen, Ping Chang, Aimee LeBlanc, Donghui Li, James L. Abbruzzesse, Marsha L. Frazier, Ann M. Killary, and Subrata Sen

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