

Study of Immunological Biomarkers to predict outcomes after first cutaneous SCC in Organ Transplant Recipients

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We have exciting and emerging data to indicate that we may be able to use 'immune age' (immunosenescence) in transplant recipients to identify those at highest risk of aggressive cutaneous SCC (cSCC) behaviour and further solid organ malignancy (see: Bottomley et al, J Am Soc Nephrol, 2016).

We think this might allow a method to identify transplant recipients at time of first cSCC, who may benefit from early immunosuppression reduction – currently a difficult consideration and a strategy rarely undertaken at time of first cSCC, but when there is likely to be the greatest impact of immunosuppression modification.

We are looking for expressions of interest from centres which would be interested in contributing to a multicentre observation study of immunological biomarkers to predict outcomes after first SCC in organ transplant recipients. We'd look to recruit patients within three months of first cSCC, taking blood and gaining access to the excised SCC for further analysis. We'd then follow up for up to five years, with the outcomes of interest being: time to next cSCC; time to non-keratinocyte malignancy; time to metastatic cSCC; survival.

We are about to start applying for funding for this study. If you would be preliminarily interested in taking part in such a study or have any questions, I'd be grateful if you could contact me at matthew.bottomley@nds.ox.ac.uk. We would also ask, as part of this process, whether you could estimate the approximate number of first cSCC made annually at your centre.

With thanks,

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