

6th Annual Pancreatic & Liver Cancer Research
100 miles Charity Bike Ride
Leicester to Hunstanton
Starting from Café Ventoux
Saturday 23rd June 2018

It's that time of year again when we start to get ready for our charity bike ride to help raise funds for pancreas and liver cancer research for the Leicester Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic (HPB) unit. This is a team effort and involves patients, doctors, nurses, operating theatre staff, friends, relatives, GP's, senior managers and colleagues from the pharmaceutical companies who all come together and work extremely hard in their own time for months to prepare for this charity event.

Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease that affects up to 8,000 people each year in the UK; it's the 4th commonest fatal cancer in the UK with a worst survival than any other cancer. In a recent survey 74% of people in the UK could not name a single symptom of pancreatic cancer. Sadly one person dies of pancreatic cancer every hour, and only 5% of patients live for five years or more after diagnosis. Unfortunately due to its late presentation currently over 80% of people with pancreatic cancer are not diagnosed until the disease is advanced at which point there are very few treatment options and only 10-20% of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer can go on to have potentially curative surgery.

The most common form of cancer of the liver is the result of tumours which have spread from the bowel and this affects around 18,000 people each year. If surgery is possible the outcome is dramatically improved. Liver cancers that originate in the liver (primary liver cancer) are much more difficult to treat and surgery in this case is the only curative treatment as these cancers do not respond to other treatments such as chemotherapy. Liver cancer does not usually cause any signs or symptoms in the early stages of the disease and because of its late presentation, liver cancer is also often diagnosed in an advanced stage.

The Leicester HPB unit at Leicester General Hospital regularly conducts research into the causes and treatments of these cancers. Unfortunately there is very little money available from the government or major charities who concentrate on better known cancers (breast, lung and prostate). Everyone involved in this charity event realises the importance of raising money to support the research being done in Leicester by our young surgeons and scientists. Organising studies and analysing samples to help us learn and understand the processes involved in the development and resistance of cancers is very expensive and as a consequence we need to find ways of raising money to ensure that this vital work can continue. Last year we raised an astonishing £41,145.74 and this is vital to support on-going research into these dreadful cancers. Despite all the hard work the event is a fantastic team building exercise and enjoyed by everyone who realises the importance of raising money to support the research being done by our young surgeons.

Cris Pollard