

Endometrial Cancer State of the Science Meeting Summary

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Endometrial cancer (EC), the second most common gynecologic cancer worldwide, has now become the most common gynecologic cancer in developed countries. The rising incidence is related to increasing life expectancy, tamoxifen use, and the epidemic of obesity. The rising incidence of EC has been associated with a rising death rate. The prognosis of early disease and advanced disease currently has a survival rate below fifty percent (50%) with very little gain in therapeutic efficacy during the past 30 years. This lack of progress in treatment is, in part, related to our limited need to improve our understanding of EC and to develop new treatment strategies to improve outcomes. Compared with ovarian and cervical cancer, EC and uterine carcinosarcoma (CS) have been studied much less extensively. Fewer trials have been opened for women with these cancers, and accrual to those trials has been slow.

In recognition of this, a State of Science meeting on EC was held November 28 and 29, 2006 in Manchester, United Kingdom. The meeting was cosponsored by the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI, UK), the National Cancer Institute (US), and the Gynecological Cancer Intergroup (GCIG). A multidisciplinary group of 75, drawing on surgeons, gynecologic oncologists, radiation (clinical) oncologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, translational scientists, and patient advocates from 18 countries and representing 14 trial groups attended.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To review current knowledge and understanding of EC and its treatments
- To identify key issues for translational research and clinical trials
- To identify the most important trials for women with endometrial carcinoma and uterine CS, both those already underway or to be done, for which GCIG might facilitate international cooperation.

The first half of the meeting was dedicated to a series of presentations outlining our current knowledge. The second half of the meeting began with parallel sessions of early disease and advanced/recurrent disease to define staging, treatment, and translational research issues to lead to candidate clinical trials questions. Following these sessions, plenary discussions addressed questions relating to the candidate trial and attempts to develop an international consensus on the most favored concepts for future development and international collaboration.